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COVER IMAGE:
Dunvegan Castle on the
Isle of Skye, stronghold
of Clan MacLeod since
the 13th century
© Hemis/Alamy



Editor's letter

Welcome to the new issue of *Scotland*, which is a very special issue for us. This issue we welcome the readers of *The Highlander* and *Scottish Life*, as well as *Scotland Magazine*, following the merger of these three fine magazines into a single, stronger title – *Scotland*.

Each issue of *Scotland* will contain the very best features and writers from your previous magazine, and we will continue to showcase all that makes us so proud of our Scottish heritage. We'll bring you the finest writing on Scottish history, ancestry, traditions and travel, all illustrated with inspirational photography.

I am sure you will recognise many familiar names among our writing team, include James Gracie, who reveals the double life of the chief of Clan MacDonell of Glengarry in *In a Pickle* (page 30), and our Master of Malt, John Lamond, who explains what a change in climate means for our whisky distillers in *For Peat's Sake* (page 50).

In *Skye's the Prize* (page 12, and above), we follow in the footsteps of the MacLeods and Clan MacDonald of Sleat to bring you tales that will make your hair stand on end.

Talking of eerie tales, in *Heresy, You Say* (page 66) we explore James VI's strange obsession with witch trials and bring you some of the gory details – well Halloween is nearly upon us, after all.

From now on you can expect even more clan news, secret histories and features that will help you research your family tree – check our website at scotlandmag.com for all the latest stories – and please do keep in touch, we love to hear what you've all been up to.

Sally Coffey

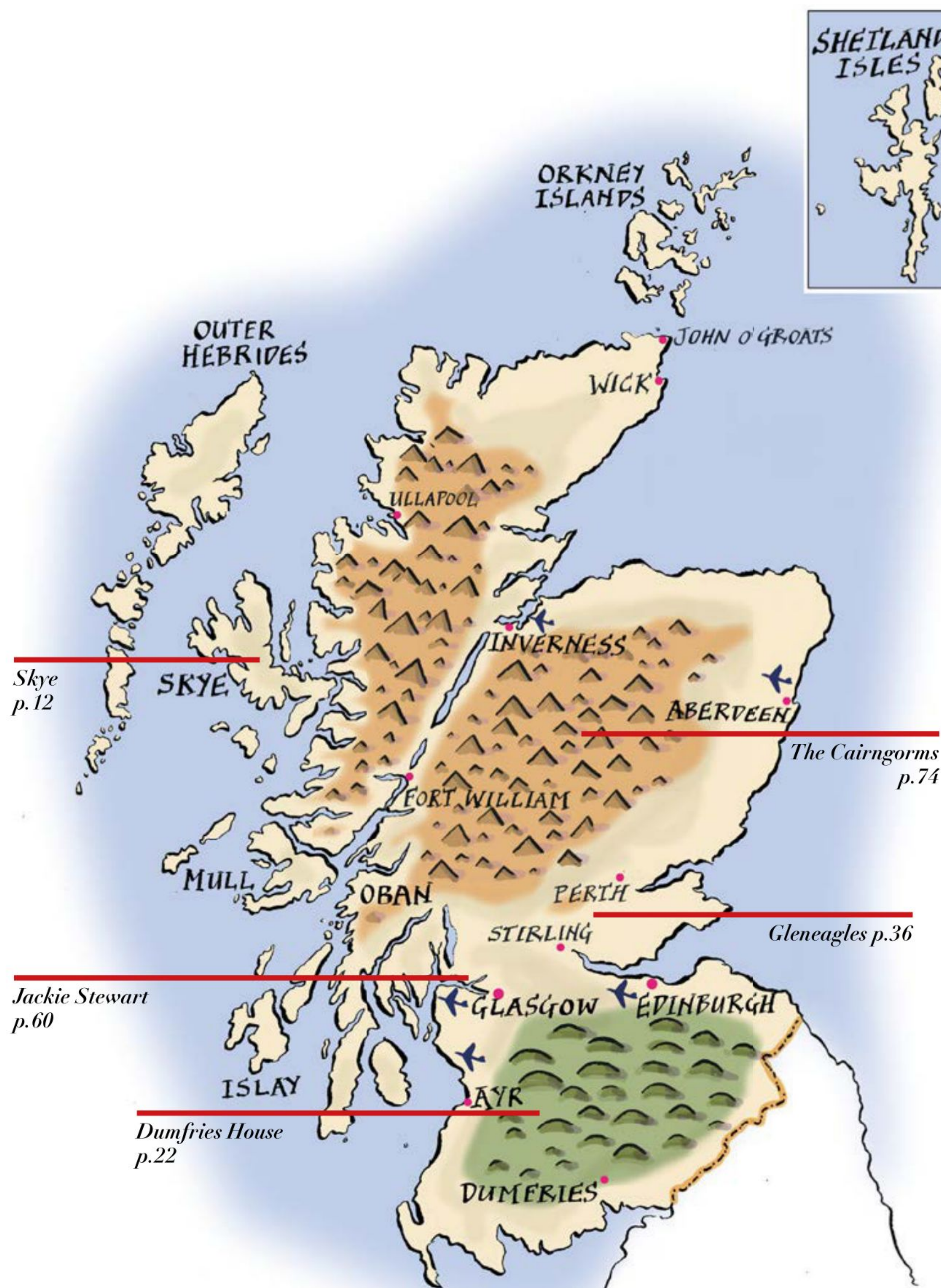
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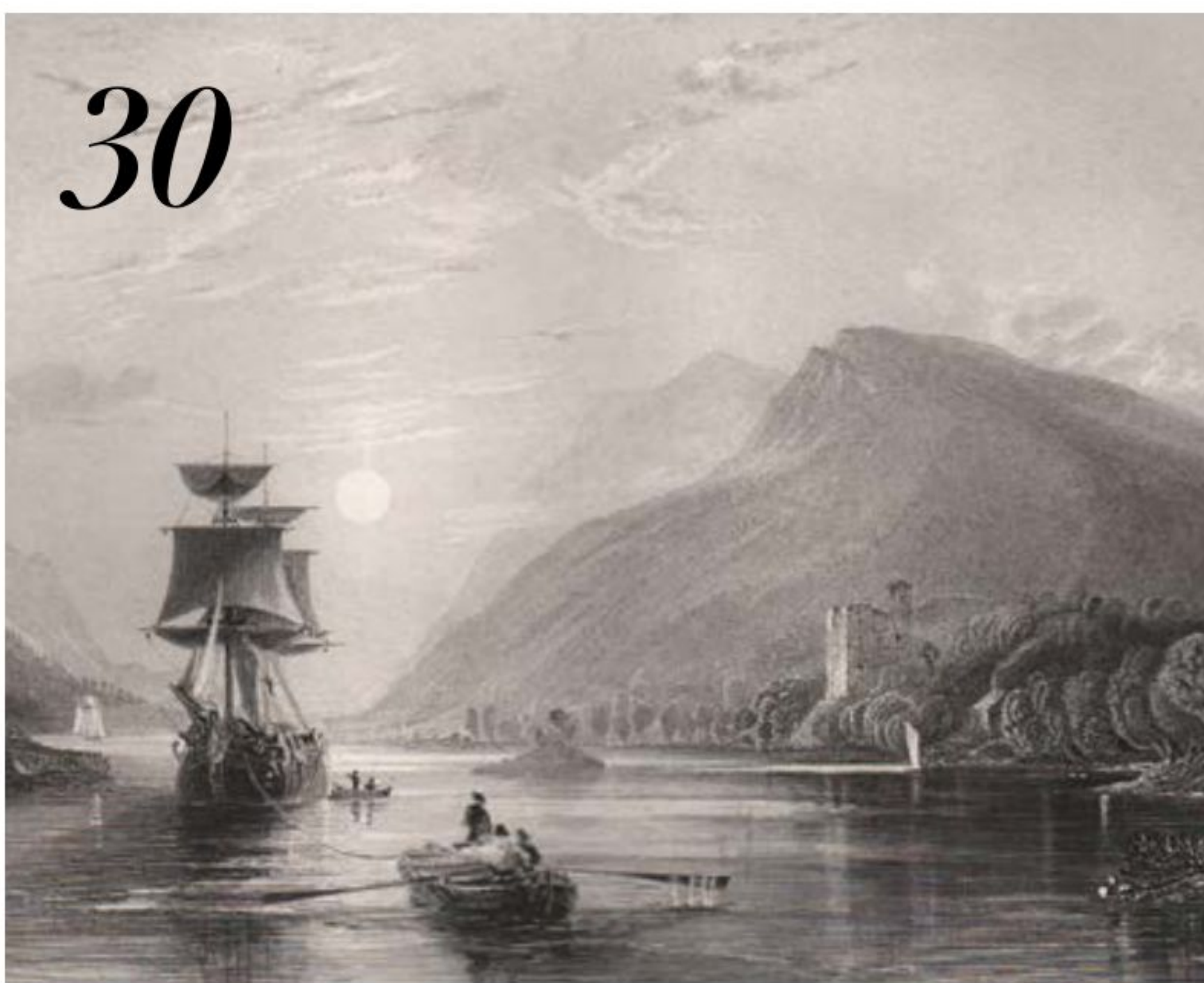
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CLAN COURIER

*Festivals of fiction, Rosslyn reopens and
ancient archaeology unearthed near Aberdeen*





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[CULTURE]

OUTLANDER STARS TRAVEL SCOTLAND

Scottish natives and stars of TV's *Outlander*, Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish, are going back to their roots for a new TV series in which they explore their homeland.

The duo aren't strangers to singing the praises of Scotland and its heritage, as they already run a successful podcast called 'Clan Lands'.

Meanwhile, the eight-part TV series, *Men in Kilts: A Roadtrip with Sam and Graham*, in which the pair visit historic sites such as Culloden and Glen Coe (pictured), has been commissioned by Starz, the company behind *Outlander*, and produced by Boardwalk Pictures in association with Sony Pictures Television.

Christina Davis, president of original programming at Starz, says: "The genuine curiosity and passion that Sam and Graham have for the landscapes they visit and the stories they uncover while traveling through the heart of Scotland makes it a truly enjoyable journey of discovery."

"The series gives context and texture to Highland life and history, woven together, much like the tartan for which Scotland is so famous, and we look forward to taking this road trip with these two great friends."

A broadcast date is yet to be announced.



[F E S T I V A L]

HOME FIRES BURNS-ING

This year's Tamfest, the annual celebration of Robert Burns' character Tam O'Shanter, is being largely hosted online. From now until the end of October, virtual events will be held to celebrate the character from the eponymous poem based on Burns' friend Douglas Graham, who lived at Shanter Farm near Kirkoswald. The festival will reach a crescendo in October, particularly around Halloween, a time well suited to the eerie atmosphere of the poem and the fate of its protagonist.

Festival founder and chair, Meredith McCrindle, says: "Tamfest now has an opportunity to go global and produce a virtual festival that Halloween lovers and Burns enthusiasts can all enjoy. Rooted in heritage and inspired by the apocryphal *Tam O'Shanter* poem by Robert Burns, Tamfest is an enchanting and educational family experience." tamfest.co.uk

[E V E N T S]

DIARY DATES

Though this year has seen many events cancelled, here are some of the clan events and Scottish-themed festivals both in Scotland and the US still planning to go ahead, some of which have been rescheduled from earlier in the year. Always check websites for up-to-date information before you travel.

SCOTLAND

2-4 Oct CALLANDER JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

What? The largest rural Jazz and Blues festival in Scotland.
Where? Various venues, Callander, Stirlingshire
callanderjazz.com

**12-6 Oct
BLAZIN' IN BEAULY**
What? Classes, concerts and ceilidhs hosted by Blazin' Fiddles band.
Where? Various venues, Beaulay (near Inverness)
blazininbeaulay.com

**15-25 Oct
BIGGAR LITTLE
FESTIVAL**
What? Arts and crafts, dance, drama, literature and music, with some virtual studio events.
Where? Biggar, South Lanarkshire
biggar-little-festival.com

**17-31 Oct
SCOTTISH
INTERNATIONAL
STORYTELLING
FESTIVAL**
What? Explore Scotland's coasts and waters through music and storytelling.
Where? Various Edinburgh locations and online.
www.sisf.org.uk

**23-25 Oct
ABERDEEN ART FAIR**
What? A free art-for-all fair, with prices ranging

from £50 to £20,000.
Where? Music Hall, Aberdeen
aberdeenartfair.co.uk

USA

**9-11 Oct
ARKANSAS
SCOTTISH FESTIVAL**
What? Piping competitions, traditional food and handmade Scottish crafts.
Where? Lyon College, Batesville, Arkansas
arscottishfest.com

**11 Oct
NORTHEAST FLORIDA
SCOTTISH HIGHLAND
GAMES & FESTIVAL**
What? A festival that brings a 'wee bit o' Scotland' to northeast Florida each year.
Where? Clay County Fairgrounds, Green Cove Springs, Florida
neflgames.com

**16-20 Oct
TEXAS SCOTTISH
FESTIVAL &
HIGHLAND GAMES**
What? A celebration of Gaelic culture and family history. Currently pending a final decision.
Where? Wise County Fairgrounds, TX
texasscots.com

**17 Oct
CENTRAL VALLEY
HIGHLAND GAMES &
CELTIC FESTIVAL**
What? All the pomp and ceremony you would expect from Highland Games.

Where? Turlock Fairgrounds, Turlock, CA
standrewsmodesto.org/Hgames

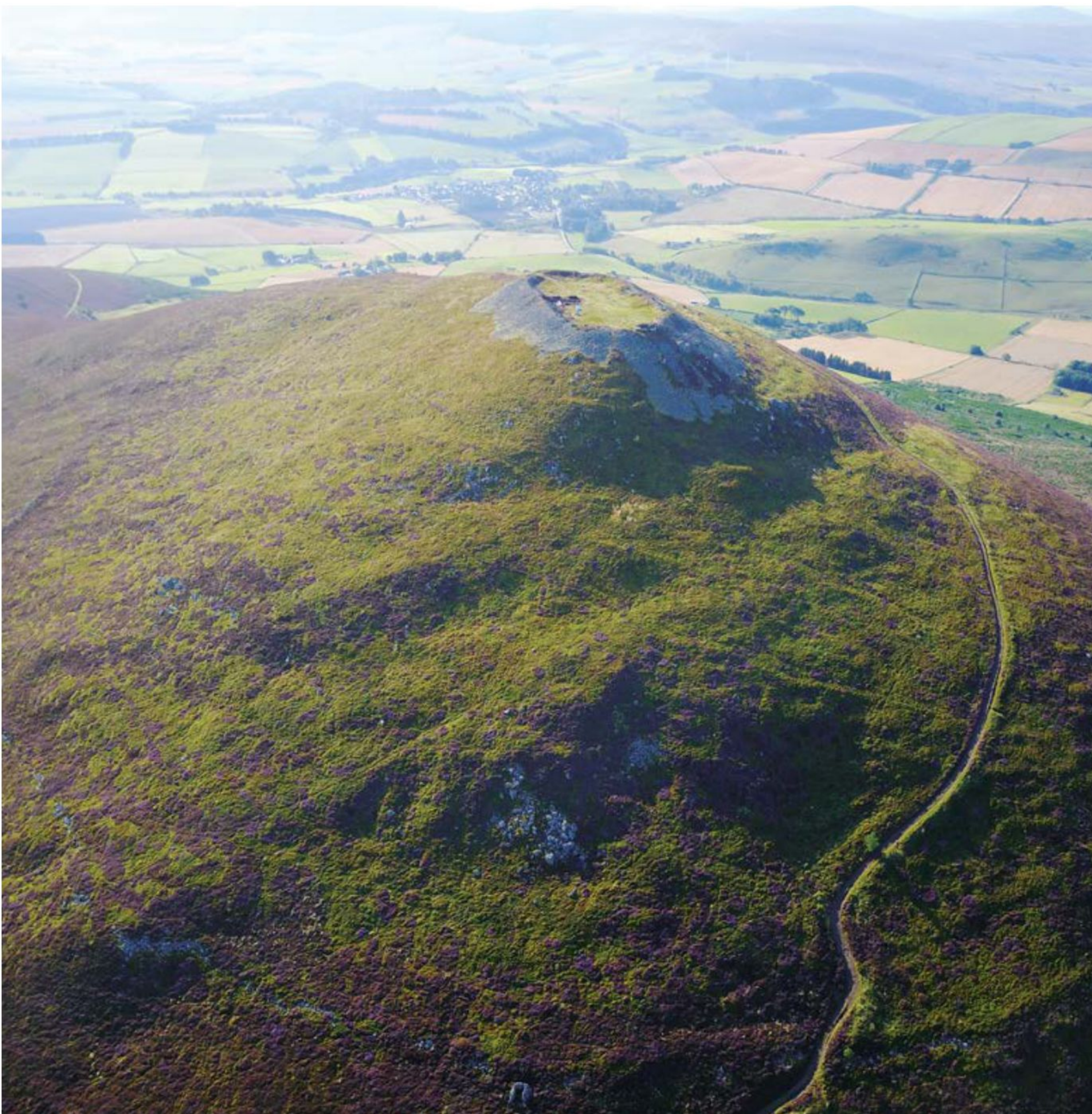
**24-25 Oct
CENTRAL VIRGINIA
CELTIC FESTIVAL &
HIGHLAND GAMES**
What? Expect bagpipes, dancing and general cheer if this event goes ahead.
Where? Richmond Raceway Complex, Richmond, VA
vacelticfestival.com

**15-17 Oct
RED STONE
HIGHLAND GAMES**
What? A lively festival and games, which starts with a traditional concert the night before.
Where? St George, Utah
redstonehighlandgames.com

VIRTUAL EVENTS

**Available now
TOUR OF BRITAIN**
The cycling race may be cancelled but online there is footage of over 65 Tour of Britain stages, including Glasgow to Castle Douglas.
tourofbritain.co.uk

**25 Sept-4 Oct
WIGTOWN BOOK
FESTIVAL**
Author readings, music and more. This year's theme is 'Resilience and Connection'.
wigtownbookfestival.com



[ANCIENT HISTORY]

PINNACLE OF THE PICTS

One of the largest ancient settlements ever discovered in Scotland – with a height that may have rivalled the largest known post-Roman settlements in Europe – has been found overlooking the tiny Aberdeenshire village of Rhynie.

Archaeologists from the University of Aberdeen say they have found evidence that as many as 4,000 people may have once lived on the Tap O' Noth just outside the village.

Using radiocarbon, they say the fort, set inside a rampart that encloses 17 acres, was built between the 5th and 6th centuries AD, but that it is likely that the Picts settled on the hill as early as the 3rd century AD.

Professor Gordon Noble, who led the research, says that the discovery of more than 800 huts that could have each housed up to five people is “mind-blowing”.

He said: “We had previously assumed that you would need to get to around the 12th century in Scotland before settlements started to reach this size. We obviously need to do more to try and date more of the hut platforms, given there are hundreds of them, but potentially we have a huge regional settlement with activity emerging in the Late Roman Iron Age and extending to the sixth century.”

[ATTRACTIONS]

ROSSLYN CHAPEL REOPENS

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, the charity established in 1995 to look after the historic Scottish church, just outside Edinburgh, known for its ornate stonework and captivating carvings.

Since its inception, the Trust has undertaken a major programme of conservation to the category A-listed building, which was founded in 1446 by Sir William St Clair.

The first phase of this work included the erection of a free-standing steel canopy, covering the whole chapel, to allow it to dry out, and this was followed by stone and mortar repairs to the exterior walls, conservation of the stained glass windows and the installation of new heating and lighting.

A new visitor centre was opened in 2012 by HRH The Duchess of Rothesay, just a few years before the chapel came to worldwide prominence through the book, and subsequent film, *The Da Vinci Code*.

Rosslyn Chapel Trust now also looks after Rosslyn Castle and Collegehill House, adjacent to the chapel, which are both available as self-catering accommodation in partnership with the Landmark Trust.

rosslynchapel.com



WE'VE GOT MAIL

A selection of messages from our readers across the globe

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

This past Monday, my husband and I, along with our son, his wife and our two granddaughters were scheduled to fly from the US to Edinburgh; the pandemic put a halt to this long-awaited journey. I have been planning this venture for the past two years, because the trip would not only benefit us in seeing the beauty of Scotland, but would also be, in part, a history lesson and the opportunity to be at the very places our ancestors were born, lived, fought and died.

The following day, the September 2020 issue (111) of *Scotland* arrived in the mail. The timing in receiving this edition couldn't have been better, as I found this edition filled with stories related to the very places we were scheduled to visit and information specific to my ancestors.

One of our day trips outside of Edinburgh, was to visit The Kelpies, Loch Lomond and Stirling Castle. Your article on Stirling Castle and the surrounding area was of particular interest to me, because of my family ties. King Alexander I, my 29th Great Uncle, dedicated the chapel there. Then in 1296, Edward I of England, my 23rd Great Grandfather invaded Scotland and so began the Wars of Scottish Independence. The heroics of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce (my 19th Great Grandfather) to regain the freedom of Scotland have been the inspiration for many books and movies, but are most inspiring to me. Later the future King Robert II, my 18th Great Great Grandfather took back Stirling from England, so its history is very personal. Such an enjoyable article, making me very proud of my heritage.

Diane McGarvey Witcoski, by email



Stirling Castle

TRAVEL FROM HOME

In these "strange, uncertain times", to quote your editor (in light of COVID-19), I find great comfort in the line on the cover of Issue 110: "Armchair Adventures: travel Scotland without leaving home." While waiting for an opportunity to travel in Scotland again, we readers have your lovely magazine available at any time. That is not a small thing, so thank you very much for so many interesting articles about Scottish history, traditions, travels and clans.

Asbjorn Bjornes, Hokksund, Norway

SEIZE THE DAY

Some years ago, my wife and I discovered the music of Runrig via a SiriusXM radio programme called Celtic Crush, hosted by Larry Kerwin. When we learned that Runrig would have a concert at Edinburgh Castle, we booked our first trip to Scotland. The concert

setting, with the castle illuminated behind the stage, was amazing, and singing along to 'Loch Lomond' with a few thousand fans was something we will never forget. Lesson learned: always say "yes" to a chance to do something like that. We have since visited Scotland several times, including for another Runrig concert at the castle, with day tours to the Highlands each time. We can't wait to get back to see the parts of Scotland we have missed. Keep up the good work at *Scotland*.

Charlie and Susan Marro, Montclair, NJ, USA

HI FROM HIGHLANDER

My regards to Mr John Miles for his excellent article on John Paul Jones in the recent issue of *Highlander*. My wife and I had the opportunity to visit the cottage near Dumfries a few years back. It was extra special as Capt Jones and I both served in the US Navy.

Don Ukens, by email

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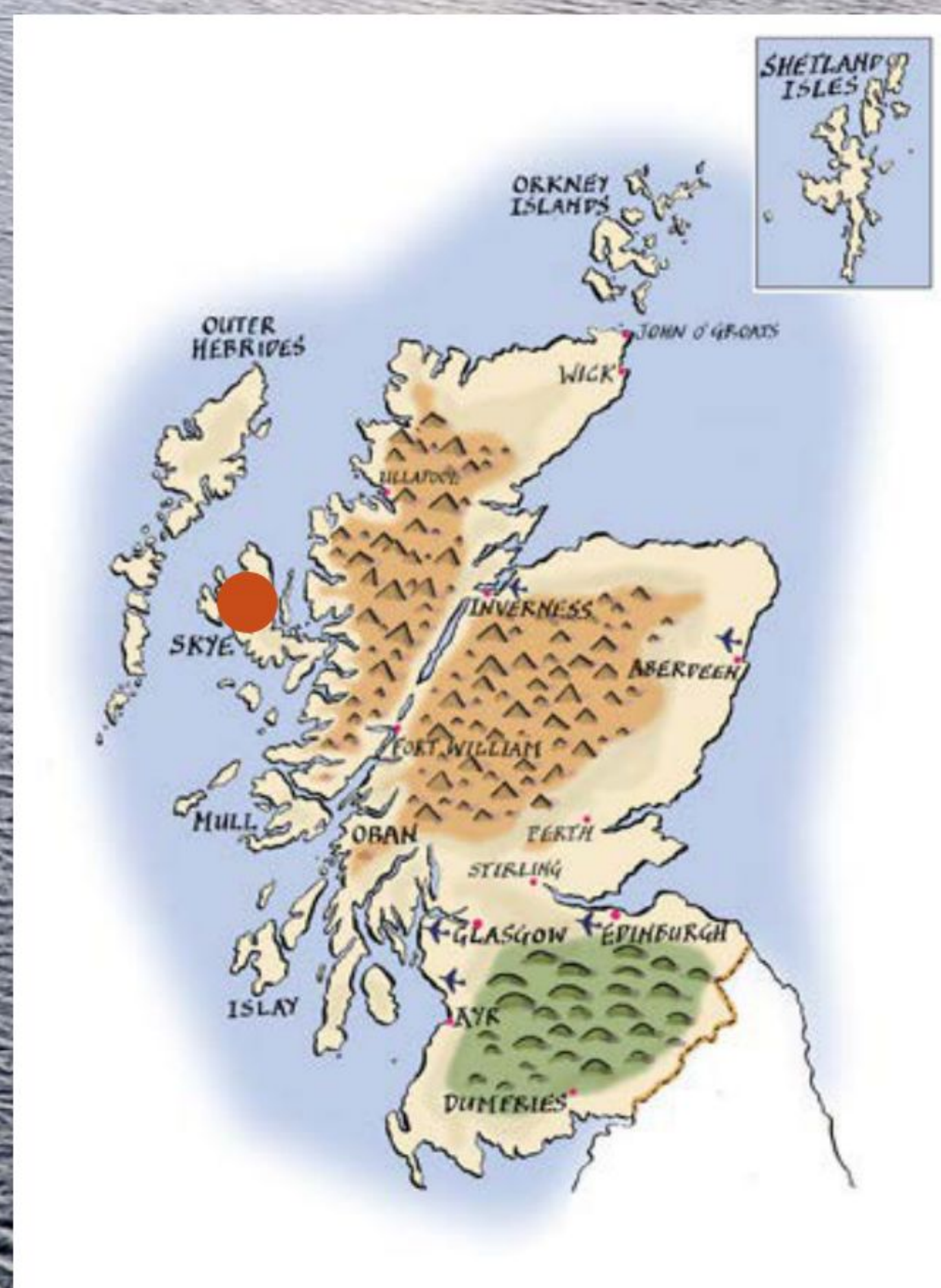
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Words by SALLY COFFEY

SKYE'S THE PRIZE

Fiercely fought over by the MacLeods and the MacDonalds, and once under the remit of the Lords of the Isles, we go in search of Skye's clan history





Skye, that detached arm off Scotland's west coast, separated from the mainland by a narrow strait – now easily accessed via the famous Skye Bridge (25 years old this year), or by ferry – is known for her stark and dramatic good looks, like a chiselled model that stands out in a sea of other pretty isles, and yet she hides a dark and tangled history.

Like so many of Scotland's regions, Skye is wrapped in mythology and legends, some of which bear some semblance to the truth, and some of which frankly don't. But in Scotland we rarely let the truth get in the way of a good story, particularly when it comes to our clans.

The most famous clans of Skye were the MacLeods, who have remained very much rooted to the same spot for centuries, and the MacDonalds, who were slightly more adventurous in their movements.

Lesser known clans of Skye include the Budes, who had some association with Clan MacDonald, and the MacKinnons, who were known to have served under the Lords of the Isles until they were forced to forfeit their land when the Lords were disbanded. The MacKinnons were later rewarded with land on Skye by Robert the Bruce, by way of thank you for helping him when he had been a fugitive.

Visitors arriving by ferry from Mallaig to Skye for the first time, would do well to stop off at the romantic ruins of Armadale Castle.

Though the turreted ruins you see today date largely from the early 19th century, the castle – or rather a building slightly west of the present ruins – was visited by the MacDonalds of Sleat, part of the mighty Clan Donald, from the 1650s on and later became the clan's seat.

Of course, it wasn't the first place to be claimed by Clan Donald, who for many years also held the very prestigious title of Lords of the Isles and considered themselves independent of the rest of Scotland. Though they ruled much of western Scotland and the islands from the 12th century onwards, Skye only came under the Lords of the Isles' control in 1438, towards the end of their rule. ➤

Armadale Castle wasn't the first place to be claimed by Clan Donald, who for many years also held the title of Lords of the Isles

PREVIOUS PAGE:

Dunvegan Castle in the northwest of Skye

LEFT: The ruins of Armadale Castle on the Sleat peninsula

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ABOVE: Loch Slapin near Torrin, with Bla Bheinn peak beyond
RIGHT: The Red Cuillin as seen en route to Elgol

Nevertheless, though the power of the Lords of the Isles began to be dismantled from 1493 onwards, when John MacDonald II was stripped of his ancestral lands by King James IV of Scotland – the latter was furious on discovering an alliance between the former and King Edward IV of England – by this time the clan had established itself on Skye.

The first clan seats were at Dunscaith and Knock, not far from Armadale, and both on the Sleat peninsula, while in the 17th century Duntulm Castle in the north of the island became the clan's main seat after the MacDonalds finally gained the upper hand in the area over rivals the MacLeods.

Before you spring off to find other parts of the isle, drop into Armadale Castle to walk around the pretty ruins (unfortunately they are too unstable to go inside) and admire the colourful and luscious gardens with views over the Sound of Sleat.

You'll be following in the footsteps of other famous guests, such as Samuel Johnson and James Boswell, who visited in 1773, to see where that most famous of Scottish heroines (and MacDonalds), Flora MacDonald, had married in 1750.

The Sleat peninsula is one of Skye's secrets – quieter, greener and gentler than the rest of the island – and a wonderful place to spend a few days. Don't mind the other visitors who rush off from the ferry to visit more famous parts of the island, stay a few nights at the Duisdale House Hotel, for beautiful views, crackling fires and old-school comfort and give yourself time to take in the charm of the region between visits to the former MacDonald strongholds.

Another place worthy of your time is the road to Elgol, a single-track road that weaves off from the main A87 road at Broadford, taking you past the 'red hills' of the Red Cuillin, and you'll have to negotiate with sheep over who has right of way, before swinging through settlements such as Torrin ►

The road to Elgol takes you past the hills of the Red Cuillin, and you'll have to negotiate with sheep over who has the right of way



PLAN YOUR FUTURE VISIT

GETTING HERE

The **Skye Bridge** by Kyle of Lochalsh will get you here in just minutes. Over the sea to Skye is, of course, the more romantic way to arrive and the main Calmac ferry departs from Mallaig and arrives into Armadale on the Sleat peninsula several times a day. To reach Mallaig, it's just over five hours by train from Glasgow, or if you are coming from London book a cabin on the newly overhauled overnight Caledonian Sleeper train all the way to Fort William from where you can get a train to Mallaig. calmac.co.uk; sleeper.scot

WHERE TO STAY

Set in a Victorian hunting lodge, the **Duisdale House Hotel** is a warm and welcoming place to stay on the south of the isle, with huge comfy beds, a two AA Rosette restaurant and an outdoor hot tub. duisdale.com

WHERE TO EAT

There are lots of good places to eat on Skye and **Dulse & Brose** in the Bosville Hotel in Portree is one of the latest, offering fine Scottish produce from the island's natural larder – it's worth a visit if only for its seaweed butter. perlehotels.com/the-bosville

TAKE A TOUR

The one-day **Clan MacLeod tour** with Hebridean Explorer takes in Dunvegan Castle and other sites on the isle, but be warned: your guide may be a MacDonald. thehebrideanexplorer.com

JOIN PARLIAMENT

Ever since Chief Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod began to encourage clansfolk to reconnect with their ancestral lands in the 1950s, clan gatherings, known as the Clan MacLeod Parliament, have been held at Dunvegan Castle every four years – the next one is in 2022. dunvegancastle.com





BOTTOM LEFT:
The Skye Bridge
TOP LEFT:
Duntulm Castle
in the north of
the island
ABOVE: Colonies
of seals sunbathe
near Dunvegan
Castle

and snaking around lochs and the edge of the Black Cuillin until you reach the fishing community of Elgol. It's the kind of place you want to hold up as evidence that Skye is not overrun with tourists, it's just that everyone visits the same old places.

En route to Elgol – from where you can take a boat trip over to Loch Coruisk, an ethereal freshwater loch where it's said a kelpie (a spiritual horse) resides – look out for the rocky and grass mound of Dun Ringill on the east coast of the Strathaird peninsula. This is all that's left of what was once the seat of Clan Mackinnon for over three centuries.

However, there's no doubt that some of Skye's most interesting clan places lie in the north of the island. It was at Duntulm Castle, in the far north of the Trotternish peninsula, for instance, that the MacDonalds presided for well over a century. The ruins of the castle can still be seen and standing here, you get a sense of why this position was so closely contested – protected as it is on three sides by sheer cliffs – though it's a precarious place to visit as much of it has now fallen to the sea.

In 1730 the clan moved to nearby Monkstadt House. Legend has it that it was because a nursemaid accidentally dropped the baby of a chieftain from the cliff edge. The nursemaid was supposedly set adrift in a boat as punishment and is said to haunt the ruins, presumably alongside Hugh MacDonald, who was starved to death in the castle's dungeons for plotting against the clan chief.

It was at Monkstadt House that Bonnie Prince Charlie came ashore in 1746 with Flora MacDonald. The lady of the house, Lady Margaret MacDonald, helped the prince evade capture by organising somewhere for him to hide. Monkstadt House is currently being renovated into a luxury lodge and will welcome its first guests in May 2021.

If you do visit this part of the island, it's only a few miles to Kilmuir Cemetery where you can pay your respects to Flora MacDonald who is buried here. You can't miss her memorial; it's marked by a huge column topped with a Celtic cross. On a ►

*It was at Duntulm Castle, in the far north
of the Trotternish peninsula, that the
MacDonalds presided for well over a century*



ABOVE: Kilmuir Cemetery, where Flora MacDonald is buried

plaque, the words of Samuel Johnson are inscribed: “Her name will be mentioned in history, and if courage and fidelity be virtues, mentioned with honour”.

Unlike their fiercest rivals, the MacLeods of Skye have stayed put for many centuries at Dunvegan Castle in the northwest of Skye and it is the only Highland castle to be occupied by the same family for over 800 years.

Known more properly as the MacLeods of Dunvegan, Harris and Glenelg, the clan’s chief is MacLeod of MacLeod, and like the MacLeods of Lewis, Assynt and Raasay, whose chief is MacLeod of The Lewes, the branch descends from Leod, the progenitor of the Clan MacLeod.

Though when Leod was granted the lands through his marriage to the daughter of the Norse Seneschal of Skye (MacRald Armuial) in the 13th century, Dunvegan Castle was a fairly modest castle, today it is a grand and beautiful fortress, remodelled many times, most notably in the 19th century when its battlements and pepper pot turrets were added to give it a mock medieval appeal.

Perhaps more than any other clan on Skye, the MacLeods’ story is steeped in legend. There is of course the Fairy Flag, which can be seen on a visit to the castle. This unprepossessing flag was supposedly given to a clan chief by his fairy lover as he bade her farewell at the nearby Fairy Bridge, a stone bridge that you can see shortly after turning onto the Waternish peninsula. According to the legend, the fairy wrapped their son in the flag, which is believed to be blessed with powers to protect the clan in battle.

An even more imaginative tale is that of MacLeod’s Tables, a pair of flat-topped hills whose strange shape is believed to be a result of an inhospitable clan chief. The story goes that when St Columba arrived on Skye, he was given a hostile reception by the chief of Clan Macleod, so he chopped off the tops of the hills to create a make-shift bed and table. We’re fairly sure that you will be made to feel much more welcome on your next visit, so no such drastic measures will be necessary. **S**

Dunvegan Castle was remodelled many times, most notably in the 19th century when its pepper pot turrets were added

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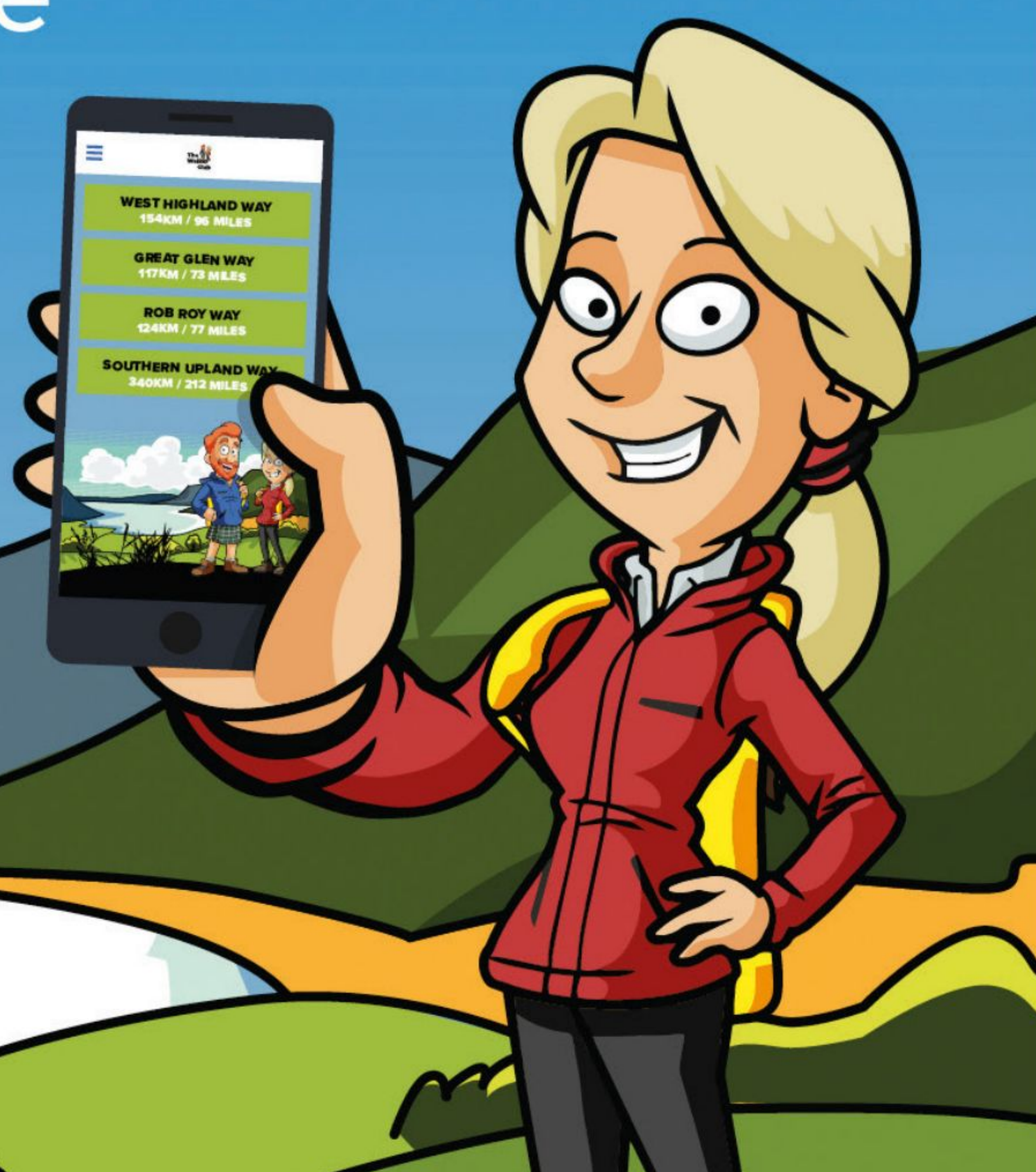
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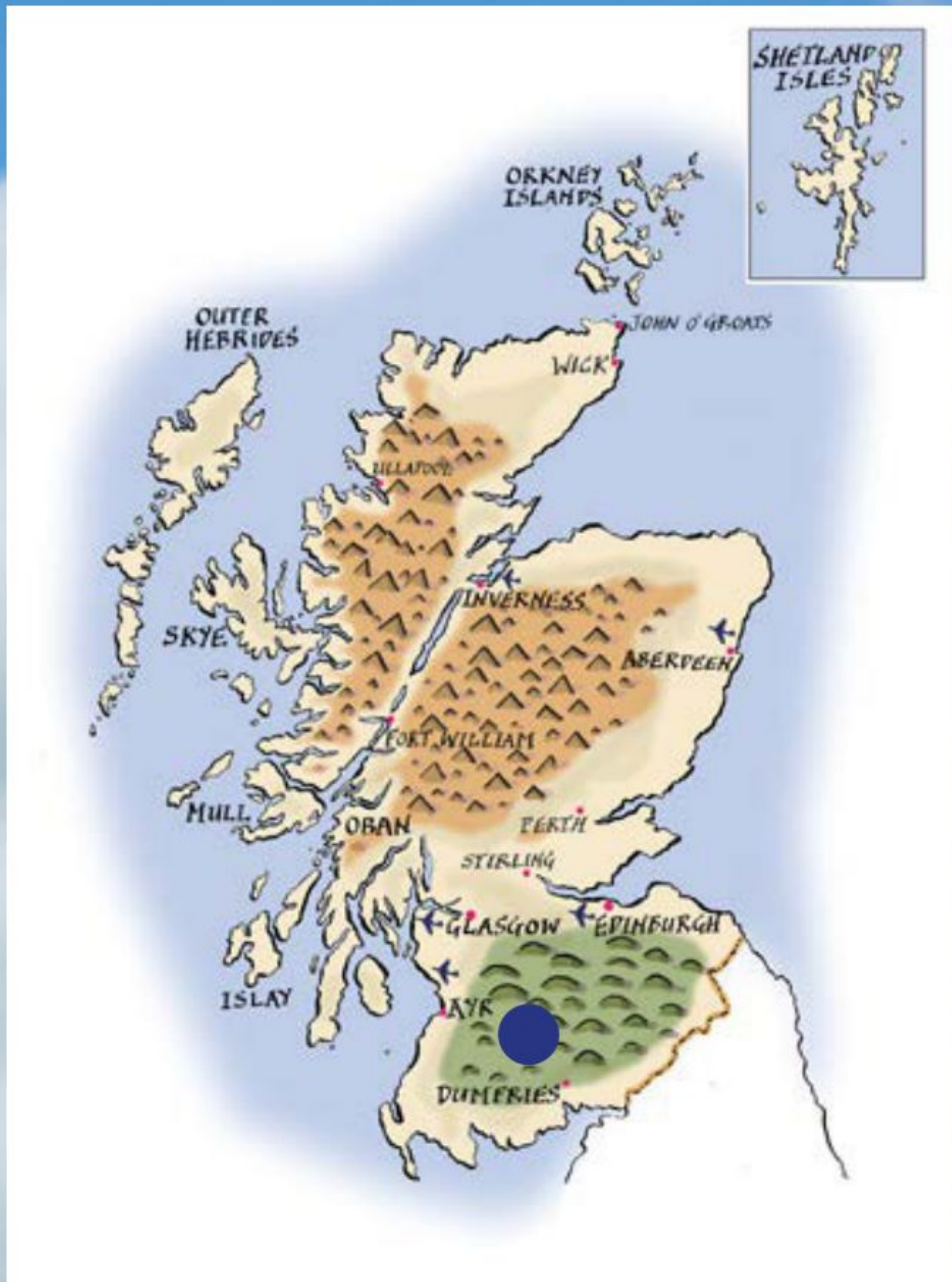
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Words by RODDY MARTINE

The PRINCE'S PALACE

Inside Dumfries House, the remarkable Scottish Enlightenment house that Prince Charles helped rescue for the nation







In keeping with the noble dynasties who occupied them over the centuries, Scotland's great ancestral homes have shown a remarkable propensity for survival and reinvention. None more so than magnificent Dumfries House, near Cumnock in Ayrshire, which in 2008 opened to the public, having previously been purchased by HRH The Prince of Wales (known when in Scotland as the Duke of Rothesay) with support from the Scottish Government under the Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust.

Prior to that, Dumfries House, which stands in 2,000 acres of grounds, was offered to the market by its then owner, former Formula One racing driver Johnny Dumfries, the 7th Marquess of Bute, so he could plough his resources into his other main Scottish property, Mount Stuart.

Horried at the prospect of the house's contents, including its incredible collection of Chippendale furniture – much of which was built specially for the house – being sold off privately and dispersed, Prince Charles stepped in, vowing to rescue the priceless property before it was “lost forever.”

By this stage, the house was not in a great state of repair and a multi-million-pound project was set in place to restore, update and open it as a visitor attraction, providing mass regeneration and employment in the Ayrshire region.

However, to fully understand the significance of this beautiful home, we must delve much deeper into the property's past to see why it was built and how it came to be in the people's hands.

In 1635, the Lefnorieis estate (as Dumfries Estate was originally known), comprising “a tower, fortresse, mansion place, orchard yards and pertinances” was purchased from a branch of the influential Craufurds of Loudon by William Crichton, 2nd Earl of Dumfries.

On his death, in 1691, his title and the Lefnorieis estate passed initially to his nephew, who died young and was succeeded by his sister Lady Penelope. In 1698, Penelope married the second son of the 2nd Earl of Stair.

In the Celtic tradition of the Scottish peerage, hereditary titles traditionally pass through the female line in the absence of a direct male heir. Thus, Lady Penelope became 4th Countess of Dumfries in her own right, passing the Dumfries earldom on to her son, another William, when she died in 1742.

The 5th Earl's first wife was the well-connected Lady Anne Gordon, daughter of the 2nd Earl of Aberdeen. In 1734, a son was born but tragically died aged 10. However, the Earl and Countess were still determined to have a family and in 1754, approached that remarkable triumverate of Scottish architects John, Robert and James Adam (sons of William Adam) to build for them a residence appropriate to their status and that of their heirs. It was named Dumfries House.

PREVIOUS PAGE: Dumfries House
CLOCKWISE, FROM MAIN IMAGE: The Family Parlour; a bedroom in the main house; the Pewter Corridor

In the words of another son of Ayrshire, Robert Burns, “The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft a-gley.” Countess Anne died the following year and the story goes that the widowed Lord Dumfries, desperate to attract a replacement wife, instructed that no expense be ►



spared on the completion of the building work. At the same time, he set about accumulating furniture and arts to create one of the most treasured interiors in Scotland.

In 1762, William did re-marry, taking as his second wife his 24-year old cousin Anne Duff, but when he died six years later, there was still no direct heir to the estate. The Dumfries earldom therefore passed to his nephew Patrick McDouall-Crichton. In 1792, Patrick's daughter and only child Lady Elizabeth married Viscount Mount Stuart, eldest son of the wealthy 1st Marquess of Bute, and the Dumfries earldom and Dumfries House passed to Patrick's grandson who inherited both titles.

The Stuarts of Bute descend from a natural son of King Robert II of Scotland who in 1385 was appointed Hereditary Sheriff of Bute and Arran and in the generations that followed, his descendants included the 1st Earl of Bute, who served as a commissioner for the Act of Union between Scotland and England in 1707. The 3rd Earl was British Prime Minister under George III from 1762-63 and through marriage in 1776 to Charlotte Windsor, heiress to 1st Viscount Windsor, the family acquired extensive estates and mining interests in south Wales (including Cardiff Castle).

However, with the family's primary Scottish residence being Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute (see Issue 107), Dumfries House, despite the spectacular nature of its contents, was relegated to being something of a secondary mainland residence (the 4th Marquess also owned three town houses in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh).

Even so, extensions were added by the Arts and Crafts designer Robert Weir Schultz in 1897. Electricity was introduced in 1909. Concrete floors and roofs were installed in 1913 and a new dining room and library added in 1934. The property was requisitioned by the army during the Second World War and survived remarkably undamaged. Following the death of the 5th Marquess in 1956, his widow made it her home until her death in 1993.

The 6th Marquess of Bute, a charismatic Chairman of the National Trust for Scotland, died that same year from cancer. It was then that his son, the 7th Marquess, a former Formula One racing driver under the name of Johnny Dumfries, made the difficult decision to dispose of the 2,000-acre Dumfries House estate to enable him to concentrate on the wellbeing of his other splendid family home Mount Stuart.

Central to the sale of Dumfries House, of course, was the spectacular collection of 18th-century furniture, much of it designed specifically for the house by the iconic British designer Thomas Chippendale and craftsmen William Mathie and Alexander Peter of Edinburgh.

Gilt mirrors and chandeliers sparkle over Chippendale sofas, chairs, tables, sideboards and Axminster carpets, which are overlooked by portraits by Sir Henry Raeburn. Highlights of a tour include the Chippendale Book Case, valued at £20 million, and the early 18th-century Flemish tapestries that hang in the cedar-panelled Tapestry Room. A mid-16th-century painting of 'The Journey of Jacob' by Jacopo Bassano and a collection of outstanding Wedgwood porcelain are equally as impressive. ➤

OPPOSITE: The Tapestry Room

FAMILY TREE

*Lords Crichton of Sanquhar,
Earls of Dumfries and Marquesses of Bute**



*SOURCE: DEBRET'S PEERAGE AND BARONETAGE.







CLOCKWISE, FROM MAIN IMAGE: The Pink Dining Room; the Entrance Hall; the Family Bedroom

A favourite interior of His Royal Highness is the Pink Dining Room with its Rococo-style ornate ceiling, and spectacular pink Morano glass chandelier. With 18 arms of hand-blown glass and floral ornaments, it dates from 1760.

As befits his future status as monarch, Prince Charles is a man of vision. He readily understood that Dumfries House was special. This is no austere Palladian mansion, but a comfortable private home of the Scottish Enlightenment period captured in the relentless passage of time.

He also recognised the opportunity to encourage a wider regeneration of southeast Ayrshire which, despite its proximity to the A76 from Dumfries to Kilmarnock, has remained a largely neglected region of Scotland.

Within the grounds of Dumfries House, he has therefore established The Morphy Richards Engineering Educational Centre, which provides experimental indoor and outdoor facilities for primary and secondary school children. The Pierburg Building and Kauffman Education Gardens serve as an introduction to gardening and food production. A converted sawmill provides a Textile Training Centre and nearby, The Tamar Manoukian Outdoor Residential Centre features a bunkhouse with two wings of accommodation.

The Kuanyshhev Traditional & Craft Skills Centre includes a Stone Mason Shed. The Belling Hospitality Training Centre delivers practical hospitality courses, supported by the Prince's Trust, and The Royal Drawing School Dimplex Art Studios, with RDS Artist in Residency programme, offers an unparalleled opportunity for established artists to explore the tranquility of Dumfries House and Estate. From the Coach House Cafe, a woodland walk leads to the Woodlands Restaurant, part of the Belling Hospitality Training Centre.

To increase the enjoyment of every visit, a Chinese-style bridge, based on early 20th-century plans for such a bridge, has been added to the walkways. Then, with a final flourish, a maze was opened in 2016.

Also on the estate, just a few metres from the main house, lies Dumfries House Lodge, known in the 18th century as the Garden Cottage, which has 22 five-star en-suite guest rooms, plus two self-catering cottages, for a truly memorable stay in the most exquisite of surroundings. **S**



PLAN YOUR VISIT

Dumfries' vast estate, including its maze, arboretum and walled garden, reopened to visitors on 6 July with entry to the main house expected imminently. To view the house's opulent interiors in person you must book onto a guided tour.

Rooms in Dumfries Lodge start from around £120 for a double. They are beautifully decorated with floral wallpaper, four-poster beds and period furniture.
+44(0)1290 421742, dumfries-house.org.uk





Words by JAMES GRACIE

IN A PICKLE

The little-known story of the Chief of Clan MacDonell of Glengarry, who worked as a spy for both the Hanoverians and the Jacobites

Invergarry Castle stood on *Creagan an Fhithich* – the ‘Rock of the Raven’ on the shores of Loch Oich, one of the lochs in the Great Glen. It was the seat of the MacDonells of Glengarry, a branch of Clan Donald, whose prowess as Lords of the Isles is illuminated at the Museum of the Isles at Armadale Castle on the Isle of Skye.

Starting off as a simple tower house, Invergarry Castle was expanded and fortified in 1602 after a raid by Clan Mackenzie and eventually stood six storeys high at its highest point. This made it one of the most imposing castles in the Highlands and proclaimed the wealth and power of the MacDonells.

And it was within its walls that Alastair Ruadh MacDonell, 13th Chief of Clan MacDonell of Glengarry, was born on 5 January 1725, one year after his father John became the 12th chief.

Alastair’s main claim to fame was not that he was a clan chief. It was the fact that he was a spy and a double agent, working both for the Jacobites and the Hanoverian government. He was the James Bond of his time, so to speak, though Bond was never a double agent.

Though everyone in Britain had heard of ‘Pickle the Spy’ – the name he had been given – and speculation was rife in Britain and France as to who this spy might be, his

identity was not revealed until many, many years later.

It is a myth that Highland chieftains were uneducated, unsophisticated men in kilts who waved claymores, drank whisky, tramped over heathery hills and waged war on each other, as many tellers of romantic tales have portrayed them. They were, in fact, often urbane men of the world who were exposed to European thought and sophistication, and who drank the finest of wines, ate the finest of foods and regularly enjoyed both music and art. The MacDonells were no different.

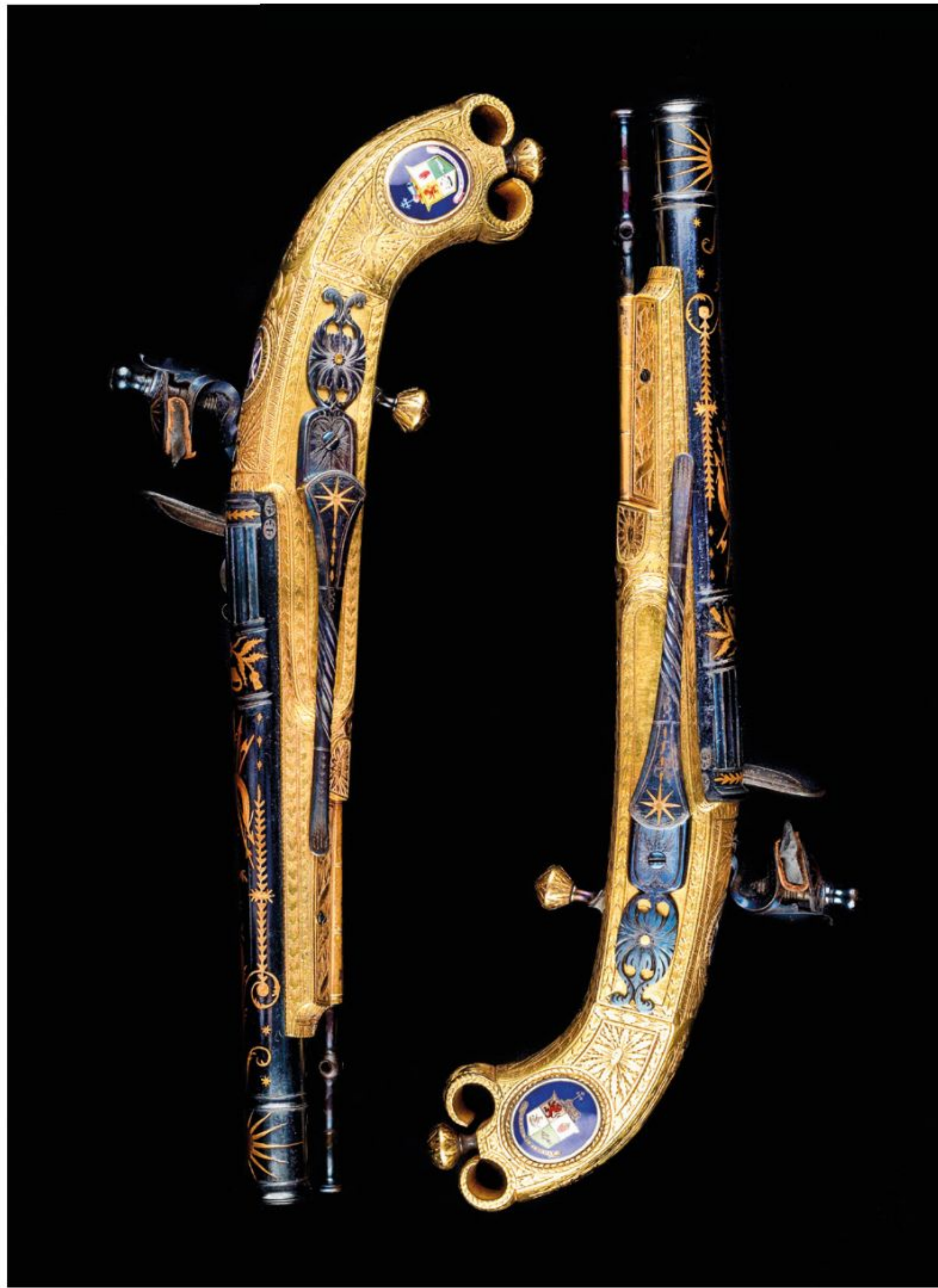
They were Roman Catholics (in fact, they were the leading Roman Catholic family in Scotland at the time) and supported the Jacobite cause (the goal of which was to oust the Protestant Hanoverian king and return the Catholic Stuart dynasty to the throne).

Alastair’s father, John MacDonell, sent his son to France in 1738 to be educated in Catholicism, Jacobite doctrine and the finer things in life that befitted a noble gentleman.

While there, he met Lord John Drummond, the son of the 2nd Duke of Perth. Drummond would eventually, in 1746, become the 4th Duke, and he too was a committed Jacobite who had been born in France in 1714. He spent time at the Scots College in Douai and, after leaving, served in the French army. ➤

OPPOSITE:
Did ‘Pickle’ find Loch Arkaig’s treasure?

ABOVE LEFT:
Portrait of Alastair Ruadh MacDonell, 13th Chief of Clan MacDonell of Glengarry
ABOVE RIGHT:
The motto of the Regiment Royal-Ecossais was “No one provokes me with impunity”



Louis XV, the French king, authorised the procurement of military supplies so Drummond could raise a Scottish regiment of soldiers in 1743 to help with an invasion of Great Britain in early 1744 (though Alastair MacDonell later claimed the credit). The regiment was to be called the Royal Ecosais (Jacobite Royal Scots) and eventually it consisted of 12 companies, each with 55 men: one company of grenadiers and 11 companies of fusiliers.

Its motto was the same one as the House of Stuart – *nemo me impune lacesset* (“no one provokes me with impunity”) – and its uniform was a dark blue jacket (with white facings at the buttons) over a red waistcoat (again with white facings) and white leggings. MacDonell received a commission as a captain in the regiment, but the invasion was called off, though the regiment did eventually fight at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Meanwhile, Charles Edward Stuart (grandson of the deposed James VII of Scotland/James II of England) was preparing to set sail for Scotland in early 1745 in the hope that clan chiefs would rally and support him. Before he left, however, he sent Alastair MacDonell ahead to gauge the level of support. MacDonell discovered that the Jacobite chiefs opposed the landing unless the French king had pledged money, arms and men to back up the Prince. But when MacDonell got back to France, he discovered that Charles had already sailed.

In 1745 the French king eventually sent a force of 1,000 men to Scotland, including troops from the Regiment Royal Ecosais. There was a blockade of Britain at the time and not all the ships got through. MacDonell’s ship was captured near the Dogger Bank off the east coast of England and the troops taken prisoner. Alastair MacDonell was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

After the Jacobite defeat in 1746, three Jacobite commanders were executed for treason: the Earl of Kilmarnock, Lord Balmerino and the Earl of Derwentwater. There was an outcry at the executions and, to appease the people, the Act of Indemnity of 1747 pardoned all remaining prisoners. Alastair MacDonell was one of those prisoners. On his release he returned to France to continue his support of the Jacobite cause.

The Prime Minister of Great Britain at the time was Henry Pelham, younger brother of the Duke of Newcastle. He was a shrewd politician, showing caution in all his dealings, but with an iron will that brooked no disagreement. Before MacDonell returned to France, he was approached by Pelham, who made him an offer. While in France and among his Jacobite acquaintances, would he spy on them on behalf of the

TOP TO BOTTOM:
The Museum of the Isles at Armadale also holds private possessions of former chiefs of Clan Macdonell of Glengarry; Loch Oich and Invergarry Castle c.1840

RIGHT:
Invergarry Castle
on Loch Oich
BELOW: Portrait of
Henry Pelham by
John Shackleton,
c.1752



British government? He would be paid handsomely and he would be given the name 'Pickle' so his identity would never be revealed. For some reason not fully understood, MacDonell agreed to the deal. Perhaps the money was enough of an incentive (he was heavily in debt) or maybe he harboured a fondness for plotting and deception.

So, while he was enthusiastically plotting with Jacobites in France for the restoration of the Stuart dynasty, MacDonell was betraying them to the British government. It has also been claimed that he passed on information about the intentions of the British government to the Jacobites. In effect, he may have been a double agent. This, second accusation, however, has never been proved.

It was he, it has been alleged, who passed on information about the Elibank Plot, which caused the subsequent capture of Archibald Cameron of Lochiel and his execution in 1753. The plot was named after Alexander Murray of Elibank, the fourth son of Lord Elibank of Elibank Castle in Selkirkshire and was a simple one. On 10 November 1752, George II and members of his family would be kidnapped and smuggled to France. Charles Edward Stuart would then ascend to the throne of Great Britain. Murray disagreed with the plan, suggesting instead that George II and his family be assassinated. However, the plot was eventually abandoned and Murray sailed to France where he stayed for the next 20 years.

Cameron of Lochiel (known as 'The Gentle Lochiel'), in addition to being chief of Clan Cameron, was a doctor and ardent Jacobite, though he was opposed to Prince Charles Edward Stuart's plan to land in Scotland and raise an army. He considered it dangerous and futile. He met with the Prince after he had landed in Scotland and tried to reason with him. But the Prince was so persuasive that Cameron agreed to join him in the uprising.

After the uprising failed, Lochiel fled to France where he became part of the Prince's household as his secretary. In 1753 he returned to Scotland to recover what became known as the Loch Arkaig Treasure – six (some say seven) chests of gold coins (worth, in today's money, about \$12,250,000) that had been sent by the Spanish government to finance the Jacobite Uprising. Part of the hoard would have been used to carry out the Elibank Plot, which Lochiel knew about, though he heartily disapproved of it. The riches had been hidden close to Loch Arkaig. Only one man, MacPherson of Cluny, knew the exact location and Lochiel failed to find it.

Since he was a wanted man for his part in the Jacobite Rising, Lochiel had returned to Scotland in secret. ►

While in France and among his Jacobite acquaintances, would he spy on them on behalf of the British government?





ABOVE:
Aerial shot of
the Great Glen
in the Highlands

But while staying at Brenachoile near Loch Katrine, his whereabouts was betrayed to the authorities and he was captured. There is little doubt that this treachery was the work of Alastair Ruadh MacDonell, alias Pickle the Spy, though some claim that members of his own clan were also involved.

Lochiel was taken first to Edinburgh and then to London where he was tried and sentenced to death, even though the Act of Indemnity had never been repealed. To get around this, the original execution warrant of 1746 was used to justify it. On 7 June 1753, he was taken to Tyburn where he was drawn (his stomach cut open and his intestines removed) and then hanged. He was the last Jacobite to be executed.

In 1754 Pelham died and Pickle's services were no longer required. The same year he returned to Scotland on his father's death. Invergarry Castle was ruinous (the ruins still stand today), but he lived in some splendour until he died in 1761. He never married, so his nephew Donald became the 14th Chief of Clan MacDonell of Glengarry.

After his return, some claimed he had found the Loch Arkaig Treasure, which explained his wealth. He probably hadn't, but no doubt he encouraged the story to cover the vast sums he was given by the British Government. And though people still speculated on the identity of Pickle, his

*While plotting with the Jacobites in France
for the restoration of the Stuarts, MacDonell
was betraying them to the British Government*

identity was not disclosed in his lifetime.

It was not until 1897 that Alastair Ruadh MacDonell was revealed to be Pickle the Spy. In that year the famous historian and folklorist Andrew Lang published a meticulously researched book called *Pickle the Spy; or, the Incognito Prince Charles*. Lang scoured all the original documents and letters of the time to come to this conclusion. He compared the handwriting of Pickle with that of MacDonell and found them to be the same. He even noticed that MacDonell always spelled 'who' as 'woh', as did Pickle. He compared times and places and discovered that MacDonell and Pickle were always in the same place at the same time. He even found references to Invergarry Castle in Pickle's correspondence.

So why did MacDonell betray his own Jacobite principles? For the money or the excitement? Whatever his motive, his secret was out. Pickle the Spy was indeed the treacherous Alastair Ruadh MacDonell. But the Loch Arkaig Treasure is yet to be found. **S**



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Words by SALLY COFFEY

THE GLORIOUS PLAYGROUND

Like stepping into a time machine, Gleneagles looks like it hasn't changed in a century, but it most certainly has

When it first opened in 1924, Gleneagles created something of a media frenzy, with newspapers hailing it the 'Eighth Wonder of the World' and the 'Riviera in the Highlands'.

This splendid palace of a hotel was the realisation of the ambition of one Donald Matheson, general manager of the Caledonian Railway Company, who long dreamed of building a country house in the Strathearn valley, with the level of opulence usually reserved for royalty.

The First World War delayed the grand opening, but eventually in 1924, Gleneagles opened its doors to the richest and most well-connected members of society – largely those from London who wanted to indulge in country pursuits with all the comforts of home, and who could arrive with ease thanks to the train station at Gleneagles, which had opened in the late 19th century.

Gleneagles was the epitome of interwar exuberance, where cocktails flowed, and the wealthy came to mingle and dance, in between shooting expeditions and rounds of golf, of course. It symbolised everything glamorous about the Roaring Twenties and its opening gala broadcast live on BBC radio.

Fast forward almost a century – Gleneagles will celebrate its centenary in 2024 – and it has lost little of its pizzazz and is still considered a benchmark for luxury throughout Scotland.

A multi-million-pound makeover that began in 2016 has stayed true to its historic roots, with social areas such as the Century Bar, with its red velvet booths, low-lighting, Art Deco details and central bar, looking as though they've been lifted from a 1920s film set.

And coming to Gleneagles is a holiday in itself – reminiscent of those long, lazy country house weekends so glamorously represented on screen.

The Caledonian Sleeper train stops at Gleneagles train station, as do several trains from Glasgow each day, from

where one of the hotel's chauffeurs can collect you directly. Chauffeurs can also collect visitors from Edinburgh and few experiences can beat that first sight of the 'Palace in the Glen' appearing amid the Ochil Hills of the Perthshire countryside as you descend into the strath.

On arrival, the smartly dressed concierge will relieve you of your luggage and whisk you to your room where you can enjoy refreshments after your journey – the service at Gleneagles is reassuringly old school, while managing to be unstuffy.

The decor of the rooms draws on the colours found in the surrounding countryside – from the soft pinks of the meadows to the blues and greens of the rivers and lochs. Beds are draped in fine Scottish fabrics with the plumpest of pillows, while the marble bathrooms have underfloor heating and roll-top baths.

You could spend a week trying the food and drink in the 10 restaurants and bars – including the two Michelin-starred Andrew Fairlie restaurant, named after the late chef who raised it to greatness. Meanwhile, there are few places quite as elegant in the whole of Scotland to enjoy

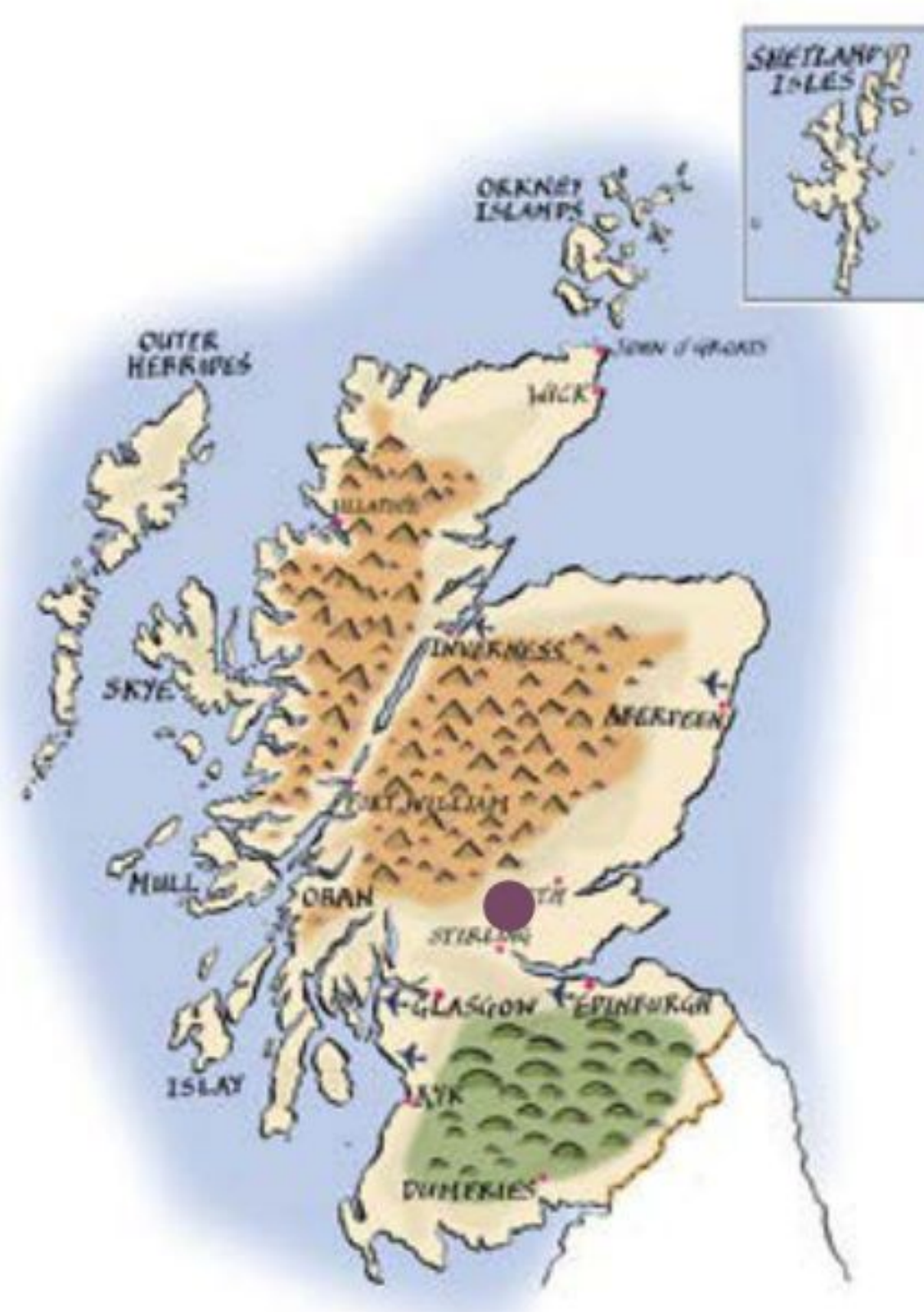
afternoon tea than in the delightful Glendevon, with panoramic views over the lawns.

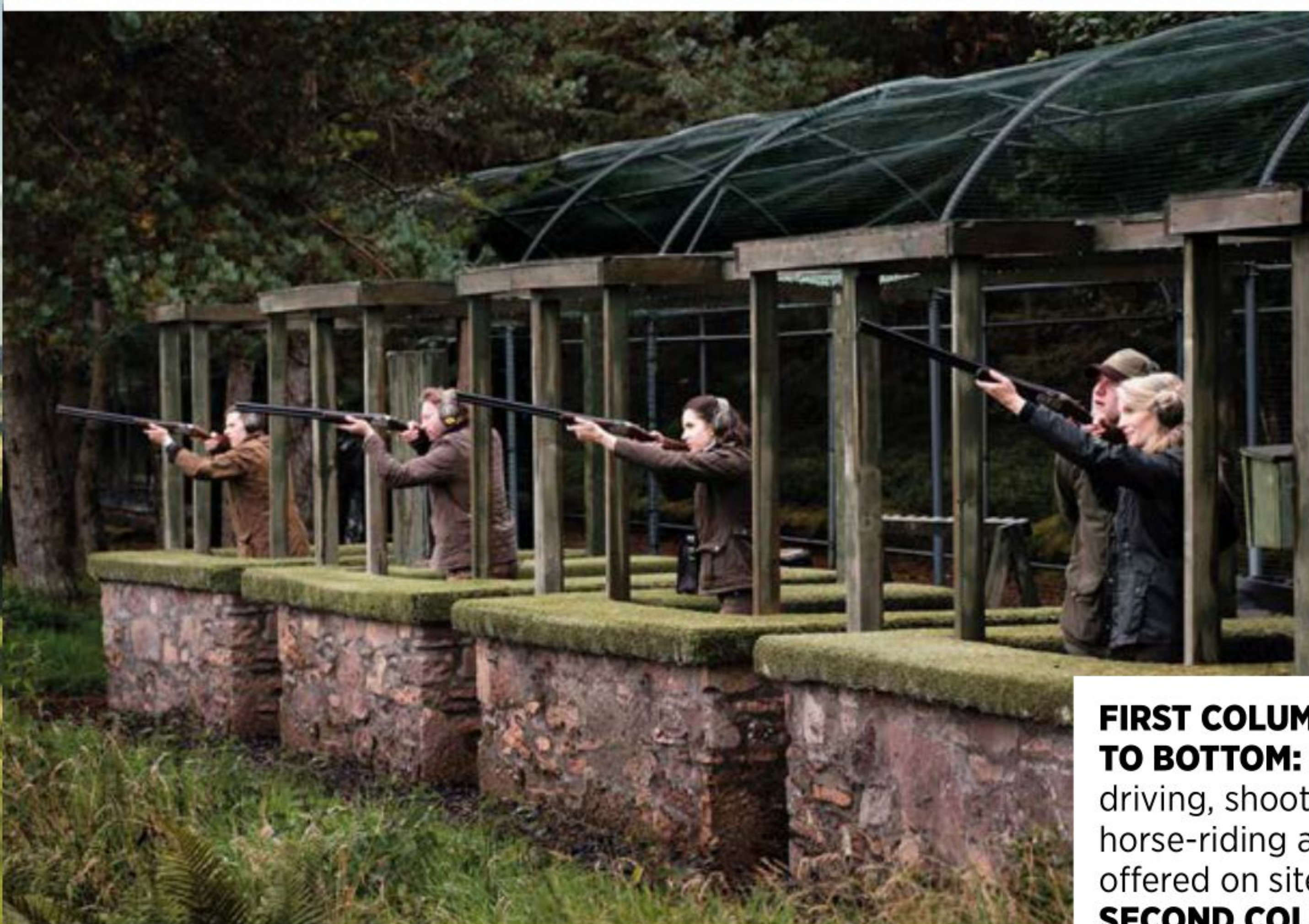
There are also lots of country pursuits to try without ever having to leave the 850-acre estate, from gundog training to falconry, archery, clay-pigeon shooting, and horse-riding.

And then of course there is the golf. Gleneagles is considered one of the greatest golf locations in the world, with three championship courses, and it is a former host venue of the Ryder Cup, the European Golf championships and the Solheim Cup.

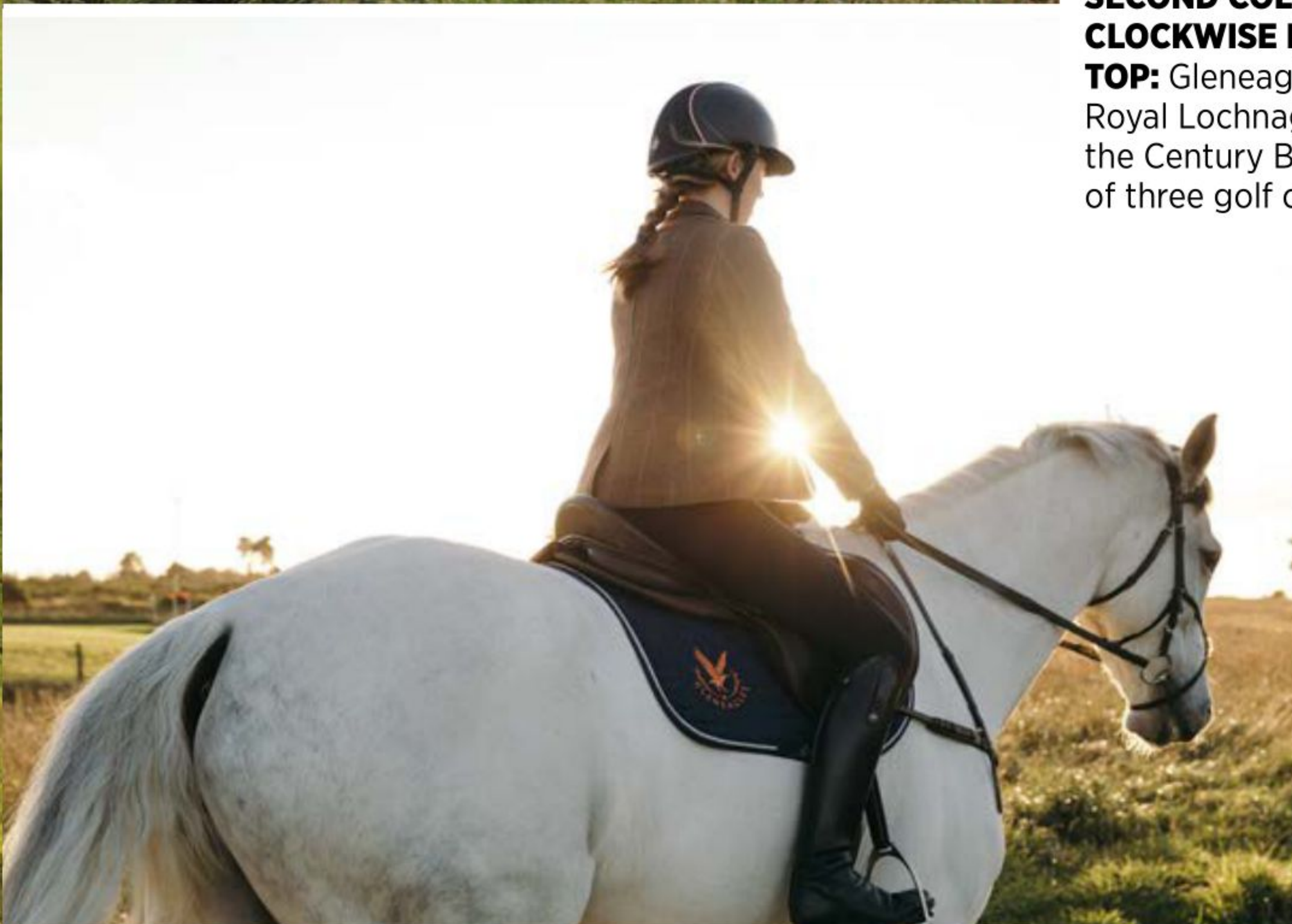
The American golfer Lee Trevino, is once said to have remarked of Gleneagles: "If heaven is as good as this, I sure hope they have some tee times left." **S**

To plan your future visit, go to gleneagles.com





FIRST COLUMN, TOP TO BOTTOM: Off-road driving, shooting and horse-riding are all offered on site.
SECOND COLUMN, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Gleneagles Hotel; Royal Lochnagar Suite; the Century Bar; one of three golf courses





Words by JAMES IRVINE ROBERTSON

KING IN WAITING

*How the legendary king bided his time
before clawing his way to power*

ABOVE: Robert the Bruce's seal
TOP RIGHT: Bruce's Stone at Loch Trool commemorates Robert the Bruce's victory over an English army in 1307 during the Wars of Scottish Independence
BOTTOM RIGHT: Melrose Abbey in the Borders, where Robert the Bruce's heart is reputedly buried

It is, in truth, a humiliating record, and it requires all the lustre of de Brus's subsequent achievement to efface the ugly details of it." So said writer Herbert Maxwell in analysing Bruce's conduct before he was crowned Robert I in 1306. Many during this period depict Bruce as shifty and treacherous, so what was going on? Why did the man who secured the independence of Scotland behave the way he did?

When Alexander III fell off his horse in 1286, he left the infant Margaret as his heir and she died on her way from Norway to be betrothed to the heir of Edward I of England. To prevent civil war between the two leading contenders, the great men of Scotland asked the English king to adjudicate on who should be their next monarch.

As many as 13 men put their names forward. All swore an oath of fealty to Edward. One was a native Scot, Patrick Galithly, a burgess of Perth and grandson of William the Lion, but his father was illegitimate, which knocked him out of the reckoning.

The rest were Anglo-Norman barons, who held lands both north and south of the border. The two that stood out, both

with powerful support were John Balliol and Robert de Brus, 5th Lord of Annandale, who was an old man in his late 70s. He was a grandson of David, Earl of Huntingdon, the Lion's younger brother. He had been declared heir to Alexander II in 1238, but that was extinguished by the birth of Alexander III for whom he had been regent during his minority.

Brus claimed that tanistry was on his side. John Balliol was great grandson of Huntingdon, but by an elder daughter. It was nip and tuck who might be chosen. Feudal primogeniture was yet to be fixed in stone, particularly when it came to succession through women.

By no stretch of the imagination could either man be described as Scottish. Balliol held lands in Scotland, England and France. His connection to Scotland was through his mother, Dervorguilla, who inherited Galloway. Brus was Lord of Annandale and probably the richest man in England with estates in Sussex, Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland, Essex and Ireland. He was Constable of Carlisle Castle. His son had gone to Palestine with Edward I and was often about his court.

The loyalties of such people – trained warriors – were to the advancement of their families, to God and to their feudal superiors, not to countries. They took their oaths of fealty seriously even if they were remarkably comfortable about breaking their word when it suited them. When circumstances changed they would take their oaths all over again. To be king was the supreme prize, the peak of the feudal pyramid.

The Brus family was convinced that they had the rightful claim to the Scots throne, and they had the support of the ►

*As many as 13 men put their names forward
to be the next King of Scotland. All swore an
oath of fealty to Edward I of England*







FAR LEFT: A statue of Robert the Bruce stands outside Stirling Castle

LEFT: Comyn was killed by Robert the Bruce before the altar of Greyfriars Church in Dumfries in 1306

barons of southern Scotland. Led by his brother-in-law, John Comyn III of Badenoch, Balliol's allies were in the north. In 1292 Edward chose him and he became John, King of Scots.

The old competitor passed the lordship of Annandale to his son, another Robert, to avoid having to swear fealty to Balliol. This Robert married the Countess of Carrick and, on her death, the earldom devolved on their 19-year-old eldest son, the future king Robert I.

Robert swore fealty to Balliol in 1293 for Carrick, but he was heir to the ancestral estates in England and Ireland for which he owed allegiance to Edward. He knew he was a whisker from the throne but he risked losing everything if he raised the wrath of the English king.

Balliol was humiliated by Edward, treated no better than any other of his vassal nobles. In 1295, he lost power to a council of 12 magnates, who made a treaty with France to support each other against Edward. In 1296 the English king invaded, brutally sacking Berwick, defeating a Scots army at Dunbar and seized the Stone of Scone and the national records. Balliol abdicated and Edward summoned the nobility to swear fealty to him in the Ragman Roll, which they did. He then set up government from Berwick.

William Wallace rose in rebellion the following year, but it was to re-instate Balliol as king. He was joined by Andrew Moray from the north and, in the south west, by Bruce and his powerful supporters. In July 1297, the southern rebellion humiliatingly collapsed in the face of a posse from north England and its participants again swore fealty to Edward.

The Battle of Stirling Bridge came in September and Wallace became Guardian of Scotland. Bruce, again a re-sworn vassal of Edward, was in Carlisle, his father commanding the castle when Wallace wasted northern

Comyn and Bruce, the same age and both with inherited claims to the throne, had an altercation – Comyn grabbed Bruce by the throat

England in the aftermath. The Comyn faction made it their first task to besiege the Bruces in Carlisle.

The following spring, Edward brought an army north, defeating Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk. Bruce stayed close to Edward but kept his options open in Scotland. In 1299, along with John Comyn and the Bishop of St Andrews, he was appointed a Guardian when Wallace went abroad to drum up support for his country. At the meeting Comyn and Bruce, the same age and both with inherited claims to the throne, had an altercation – Bruce was grabbed by the throat.

Over the next few years, Bruce ostensibly stayed close to Edward. His father died and he swore fealty for his lands in England. Finally, in 1304 Edward crushed the remnants of rebellion and the Scots nobles once more swore fealty. Abandoned, Wallace was executed in London in 1305.

But Bruce had been plotting. He secured an alliance with William Lamberton, head of the Scottish church. On 10 February 1306 he arranged to meet Comyn in Dumfries. It seems intended to have been a negotiation for the price one would pay for support by the other in a bid for the throne. But tempers were lost; Bruce killed Comyn in front of the altar in Greyfriars Kirk in Dumfries. Five weeks later, he was crowned King of Scots at Scone. From then on his survival and the survival of an independent Scotland were one. ■

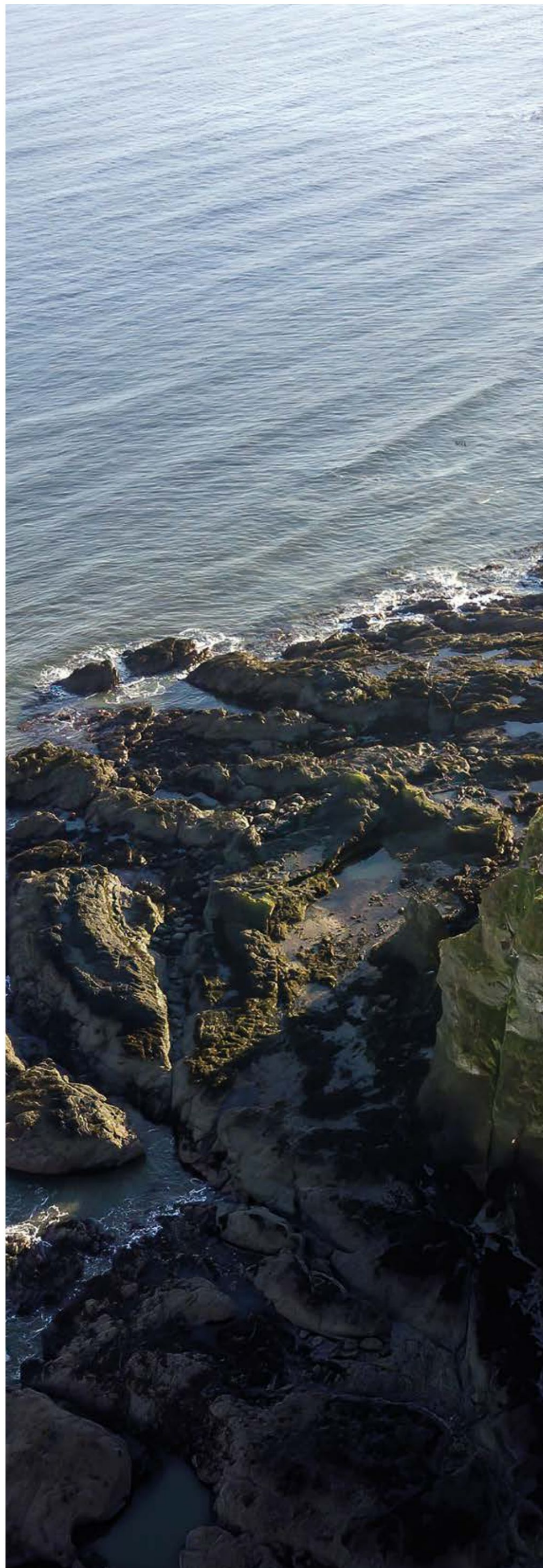
Words by DR JOSEPH BRENNAN

ON A CLIFF EDGE

Let your imagination take over with a virtual visit to one of these ancient ruinous coastal castles, soaked in Scottish intrigue and history

Scotland is renowned for its dramatic coastline, not least due to the many atmospheric castle ruins that perch on lofty outcrops along its edge. In the words of Sir Walter Scott, writing about Tantallon Castle: these castles of “striking situation, overhanging the billows of a wide and often troubled ocean, [have] an imposing effect on the imagination.”

Come with us as we take an armchair tour of some of the most picturesque and rich-in-intrigue castles from the far northeast coast of the Scottish Highlands to south Ayrshire. ►





TANTALLON CASTLE

EAST LoTHIAN

Tantallon Castle is a true relic. Here you can find the last curtain wall to be built in Scotland, with this castle marking the end of an era in castle building, as stone goliaths like this one gave way to more compact, sparse and numerous tower houses (such as Threave Castle, built around the same time). How fitting that Tantallon also happens to be the most awe-provoking of Scottish cliff castles, with a curtain wall on one side and sheer cliffs as walls for the rest. Tantallon is managed by Historic Environment Scotland and is open all year round for a small entry fee. historicenvironment.scot



FAST CASTLE

BERWICKSHIRE

From the most picturesque to the most demanding of the imagination, we arrive at Fast Castle in the Scottish Borders, 24 miles south of Tantallon. There is hardly any stonework remaining of Fast, yet it makes it onto our list for the sinister stories that have been spun around it, which are unique to these structures that guard both land and sea. At Fast, lights would be used to lure ships onto the jagged rocks for the purpose of looting valuable cargo.

This site also inspired the writings of Scott, and the coastal paintings of John Thomson that capture on canvas the unease of this particular castle site. Fast can be accessed throughout the year on foot from a signed parking area along Dowlaw Road off the A1107. St Abb's Head is nearby and worth visiting while in the area.

Scott wrote of Fast Castle: "Imagination can scarce form a scene more striking, yet more appalling, than this rugged and ruinous stronghold, situated on an abrupt and inaccessible precipice, overhanging the raging ocean, and tenanted of yore by men stormy and gloomy as the tempests they looked down upon."



CASTLE SINCLAIR GIRNIGOE

CAITHNESS

Castle Sinclair Girnigoe is just a few miles north of Wick. Commonly understood as consisting of two castles, Sinclair and Girnigoe, it was long believed that Girnigoe rose first in the 15th century and was followed by Sinclair in the 17th. However, an archaeological survey in the early 2000s revealed that the structures on the site are in fact much earlier, with the latest evidence suggesting it became one castle from the mid-1400s.

Sinclair Girnigoe's precarious clifftop position lives up to its Gothic promise, an insidious incident of prolicide having played out within its walls. George Sinclair, the 4th Earl of Caithness, is said to have imprisoned his son, John, in the castle for seven years on suspicion of rebelling against his rule, eventually driving him to death by thirst and insanity through a diet of salted beef without water.



KEISS CASTLE

CAITHNESS

In the far north of the Scottish mainland, Keiss was left ruinous and mostly solitary for much of its history, as attentions were paid to structures elsewhere. From the 1750s it became known as 'Old Keiss Castle' when its owner, Sir William Sinclair, took its name for his new Baronial-style mansion, built back from the cliffs a short distance away. An earlier Sinclair — George, the 6th Earl of Caithness — had also contributed to its decay when he built Thurso Castle as a key residence in the 1660s, just to the northwest, allowing Keiss to languish.

But Keiss would make a return as a witness to key events in the mid-20th century when it presided over what is believed to be the longest mine field in the entire United Kingdom during the Second World War. Due to its tipping point position, the ruin cannot be entered, but can be admired via a path less than one mile north of the village of Keiss. Ramblers will be better served by a visit to the castle as part of the John O'Groats Trail. Setting off from the town of Wick the castle is approximately seven miles north, or 10 miles south if setting off from the popular tourist village of John O'Groats.

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE

ABERDEENSHIRE

Dunnottar Castle is an archaeological puzzle, and its near-island remoteness and romantic ruination explains its appeal. The site brings together stonework that tells a story of both strength and opulence, with the ruins of a fortified keep and palace able to be explored today. Juxtaposition of force and beauty is at the heart of Dunnottar — the eagle-eyed reader might recognise it as the setting of Frankenstein's Gothic laboratory of horrors in the 2015 film *Victor Frankenstein*, starring Scottish actor James McAvoy.

Slighted and refortified numerous times over the centuries, James V of Scotland once described it as among the “principall strenthis of our realme.” And Dunnottar has many a footnote in the key events in Scotland's story, its role in hiding the Honours of Scotland and the 1715 Jacobite rising being two examples. Dunnottar was purchased in 1925 and restored by the Pearson family, today it is open throughout the year for a small entry fee.

The castle is located approximately two miles south of Stonehaven; setting out from this pretty harbour town offers a scenic walk along the coast to the ruin. dunnottarcastle.co.uk



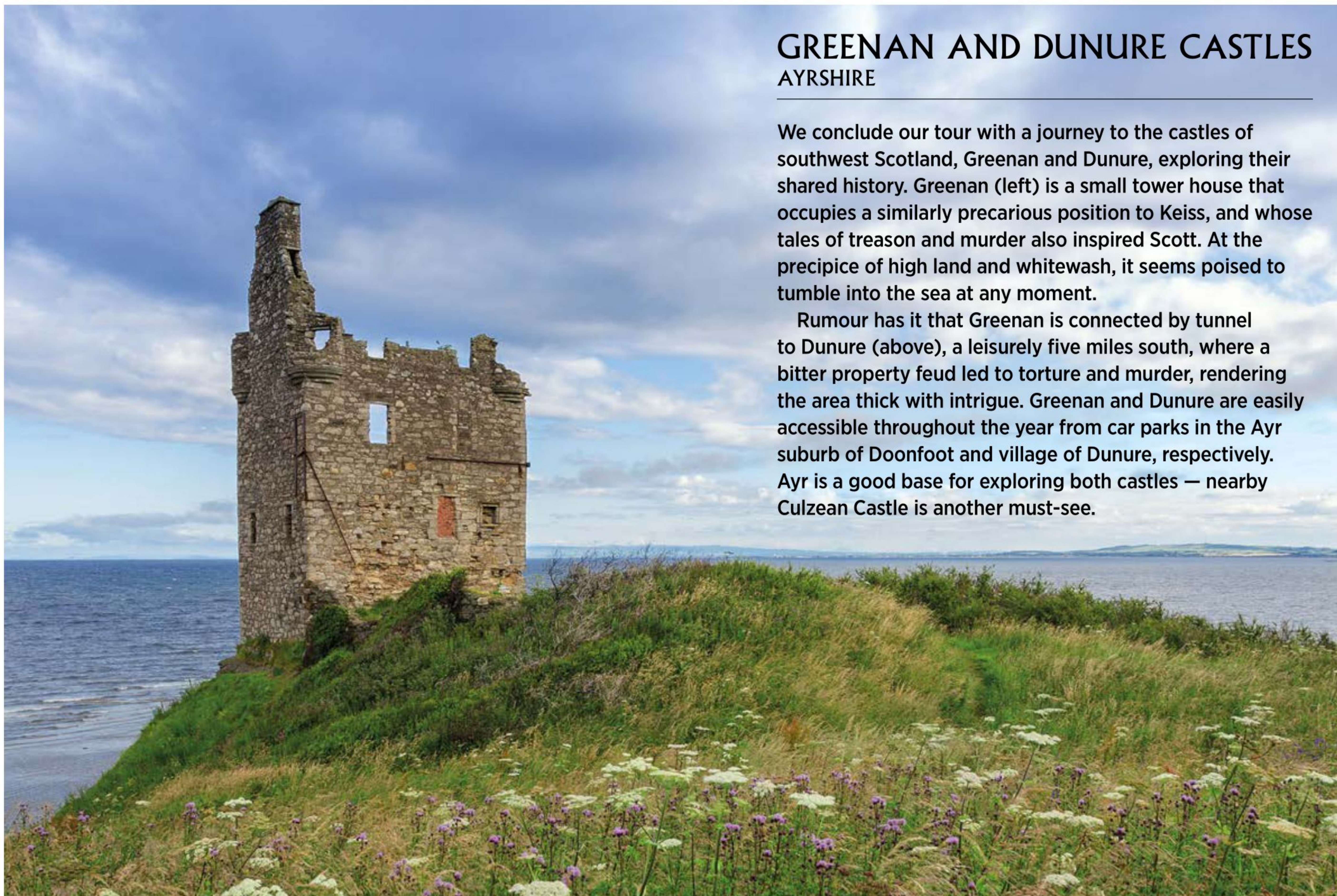


GREENAN AND DUNURE CASTLES

AYRSHIRE

We conclude our tour with a journey to the castles of southwest Scotland, Greenan and Dunure, exploring their shared history. Greenan (left) is a small tower house that occupies a similarly precarious position to Keiss, and whose tales of treason and murder also inspired Scott. At the precipice of high land and whitewash, it seems poised to tumble into the sea at any moment.

Rumour has it that Greenan is connected by tunnel to Dunure (above), a leisurely five miles south, where a bitter property feud led to torture and murder, rendering the area thick with intrigue. Greenan and Dunure are easily accessible throughout the year from car parks in the Ayr suburb of Doonfoot and village of Dunure, respectively. Ayr is a good base for exploring both castles — nearby Culzean Castle is another must-see.





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FOR PEAT'S SAKE

Our Master of Malt discusses the impact of weather on our beloved whisky and gives some tips for bottles to try at home

Words by JOHN LAMOND



In my youth, I remember snow lying around my home in Perth for weeks on end, but the snows of 50 years ago seem to be gone forever. They meant that the upland areas, which gather Scotland's water supplies, retained water during the course of a full calendar year. A distillery's silent season was rarely the result of lack of water – it was more an opportunity for the staff to carry out maintenance and take holidays. With less snowfall, there has been an increase in the length of some silent seasons due to a lack of cooling water.

In late September 1996, the northeast of Scotland had serious flooding problems. The temperature was relatively warm, and with the high levels of rainfall and saturated fields, it was impossible to harvest the barley, which was almost at full ripeness when the rains started.

These warm and moist conditions caused 'skinning': the seed at the head of the grain began to germinate, resulting in a mat of roots at the head of the plant as well as the mat of roots below the ground. From the farmers' point of view, it was a disaster. The sugars within the seed had already been used as energy for germination. None of the barley could be used for malting; it was condemned to cattle feed.

At the time I asked Jim McEwan, the then manager at Bowmore Distillery on Islay, if he was pleased to have restarted work after an extended silent season, he retorted, "What? We still have no water. This morning I stood with one foot on one side of the River Laggan and my other foot on its other bank." (the Laggan provides Bowmore's cooling water). I then asked him about the floods. "What floods? We have not had a drop of rain for six weeks!" was his response. With distilleries like Balmenach needing 80,000 litres of cooling water every hour for their worm tubs, water is rapidly becoming a serious issue in a warmer Scotland.

In a hot summer, it takes less energy to heat the mash tun or the stills, but more water is needed in the heat exchangers to cool down the wort before fermentation. The distiller also gets a lower yield per tonne of barley. That means lower alcohol levels and a drop in production.

A few years ago, I asked some Americans at the end of their visit, if they had enjoyed Scotland. With one exception, they all said that they had had a wonderful time. The dissenter came from Las Vegas and was upset because he had come to Scotland to experience rain and instead had got 10 days of what we Scots call beautiful weather – dry and sunny. ■

ABOVE RIGHT:

Linkwood is produced by new, independent bottler, The Single Cask

A Master of Malt, John Lamond is one of the world's leading authorities on whisky and author of *The Malt Whisky File* (now in its seventh edition), *The Whisky Connoisseur's Book of Days*, *The Whisky Connoisseur's Companion* and *Le Snob: Whisky*.



TASTING NOTES

■ I recently tasted a couple of whiskies from a relatively new independent bottler, The Single Cask. The first is an 11-year-old Linkwood, bottled at 54.7% abv. The aromas are vanilla, toffee, apple and liquorice; with the addition of water, a little candle wax and a floral note come out. The flavour is medium-dry, medium-bodied and quite gingery and spicy, with the floral touch. It finishes long – quite elegantly and spicy again – with some pears on the tail. The price is £60 (US\$80).

■ The second is a 12-year-old Caol Ila bottled at 57.8% abv. It is big-bodied with aromas of bonfires on the beach and bicycle tyres; with water, it is softer and rounder with some limey fruit and a hint of brown trout. The flavour is also big-bodied, rich and smoky with a little spice and some nutty toffee, finishing long and smoky with a touch of dark chocolate and espresso coffee. Its price is £65 (US\$82.50).

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January



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NOT QUITE OUT OF PUFF

Coal-fired puffer boats once provided a vital link to the isles of the west coast and the Hebrides, but only a few remain today

Words by BEN WEST



With the plethora of nondescript bright white modern boats on our seas and waterways, your first sighting of a Clyde puffer is likely to take your breath away. Built between 1856 and 1939, these distinctive little steamboats look like something out of a Popeye cartoon and have a rich history behind them, too. The early engine design of this type of vessel made puffs of steam from the funnel, giving puffers their name.

Several hundred 'puffers' existed before the Second World War and the single-masted, coal-fired, steam-propelled cargo ships originally provided a vital supply link, entering the smallest nooks and crannies of the British Isles. They journeyed as far as the most remote corners of the Hebrides and the northern Irish coast, as well as Middlesbrough on England's east coast.

They were the lifeblood of these coastal communities, which possessed primitive roads. They were often the only link with the outside world. Many rural communities relied upon

puffers for their oil, coal and general supplies. Because the ships were shallow-bottomed, if there was no pier or jetty, they could beach at high tide, wait for the tide to go out, and then be unloaded of supplies like coal and tractors.

Puffer boats were immortalised in Neil Monro's *Para Handy Tales*, short stories that were first published in the *Glasgow Evening News* from 1905 for more than 20 years. They were later televised by the BBC in several series from the 1950s to the 1990s.

During the First World War, puffers serviced warships and were used at the Scapa Flow naval base in the Orkney Islands. During the Second World War, the Admiralty ordered the construction of more of these little ships to help the war effort, principally to deliver diesel to warships. This was not only because they were reliable, but

their simple design meant that they could be built cheaply and quickly. These wartime derivatives of the Clyde-built puffers were known as VICs (victualling inshore craft). ►

Puffer boats were the lifeblood of coastal communities, which possessed primitive roads

LEFT: The Clyde puffer named Vital Spark in Inveraray Harbour on Loch Fyne

RIGHT: The Ashdale Glen puffer at sea



A handful of these vessels, 66 feet long, still survive as conservation projects. Many have diesel engines now. The most well-known is probably the VIC 32, built in 1943, and one of the 100 built for the Admiralty at that time. It is based at the delightfully pretty Crinan Basin near Lochgilphead in Argyll and it is one of the last few surviving coal-fired steam-powered puffers. Regularly cruising the canals and west coast of Scotland, its dramatic clouds of black smoke bellowing from its funnel always ensures a mass of onlookers.

Visitors have been able to experience sailings on the vessel since 1979, when Puffer Steamboat Holidays began offering trips. Like all surviving puffers, VIC 32 has undergone a formidable

restoration project. It was rescued from the scrapyard in 1974 by a charismatic Englishman, Nick Walker, who promptly spent five years converting her into the world's only Clyde puffer passenger steamer.

It still sports many features from a bygone age, such as its little wooden wheelhouse and large bright red funnel. The interior is homely and comfortable, with a roomy saloon and walls panelled in gorgeous deep mahogany. There's a long wooden dining table beneath an old oil lamp, a little bar stocked with rare malt whiskies, an untuned upright piano and even a steam-driven gramophone, which all provide entertainment during each week's voyage.

Passenger cabins are wood-panelled, compact, modest but comfortable

Dramatic clouds of black smoke bellowing from its funnel ensures many onlookers



and on the lower deck. In contrast, much of the upper deck is taken up by the captain's quarters, an opulent windowed chamber dominated by a huge double bed and embellished with his collection of Panama hats.

The accommodation is most definitely considerably superior to that the crews who lived on the boat enjoyed when it was a cargo vessel. They would have been provided with a triangular space just 15ft across, lit only by the hatch and a few glass bricks embedded in the deck, and crammed with a coal-fired range, a water tank, four bunks, lockers and furniture.

On these trips you can choose to help with duties on the boat, but there is no obligation to do so. A surprising number of passengers are keen to help with as many tasks as possible and spend the week polishing the brass, scrubbing the deck and burying themselves deep in the oven-hot engine room, when they could be sitting on

deck buried in a book or simply admiring the outstanding scenery, which could be a Scottish canal or cruise around (and visit) gorgeous islands like Islay and Jura.

Taking part in loading the four tonnes of coal for the week gives a glimpse of what backbreaking work it would have been for the crews in years gone by. After loading about 40 wheelbarrows of coal onto the boat you certainly fully feel that you deserve a tea break.

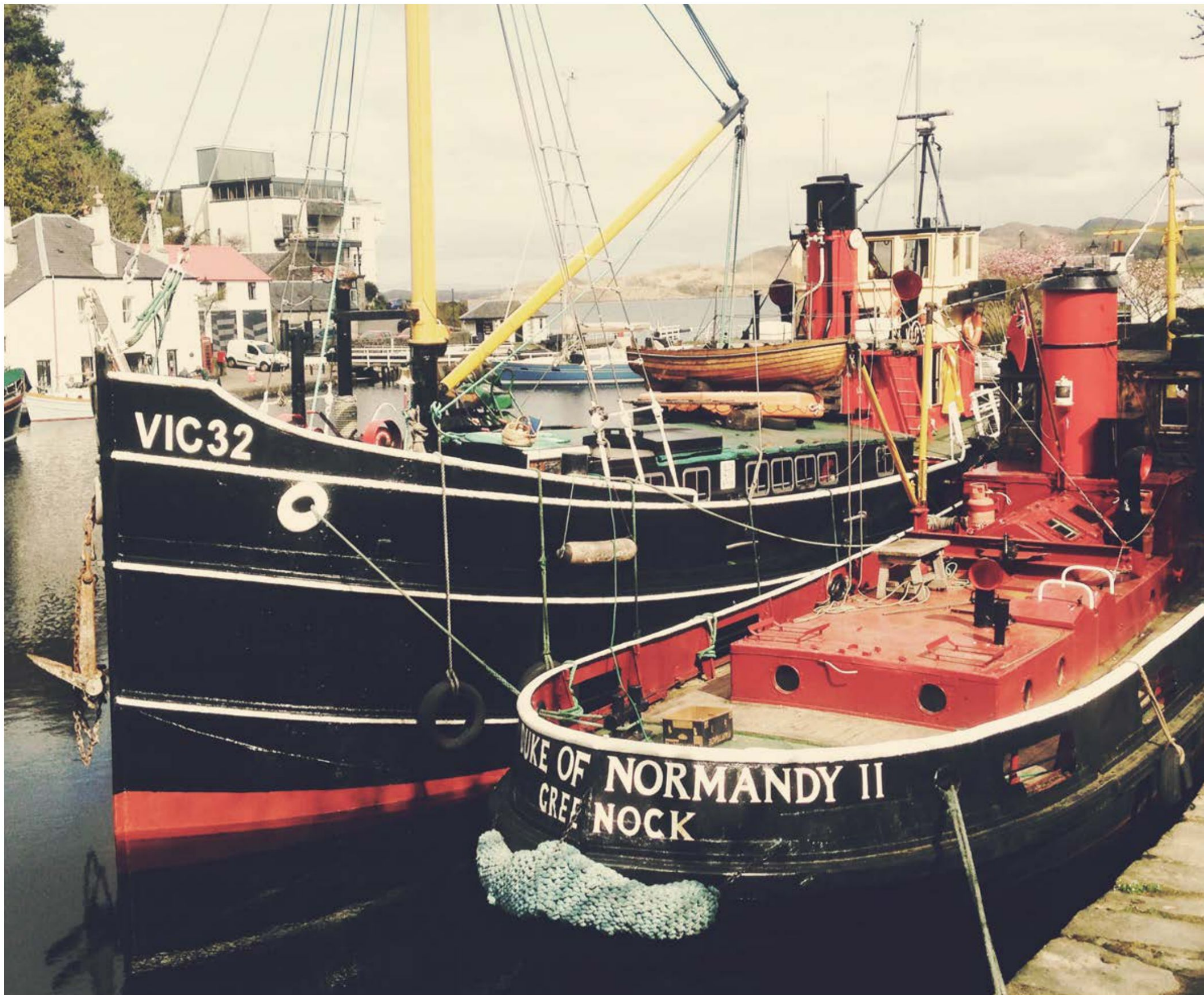
Even just a few minutes assisting in the boiling hot, deafening engine room crammed with gigantic machinery, the likes of which are rarely to be seen outside the Science Museum, further underlines how working on a Clyde puffer would not have been an easy job.

Passengers can visit the wheelhouse and learn the rudiments of navigation and steering, keeping the ship steady, usually at a comfortable six knots (about 8.5mph). Despite the ship's age, the wheelhouse is equipped with

LEFT: The VIC 32 glides along the Crinan Canal in west Scotland

UPPER RIGHT: A scale model of puffer Clochlight, made by the late Robert Roy Watson, an ex Rolls-Royce machinist

LOWER RIGHT: A scale model of Northlight is loaded with cargo



ABOVE: Possibly the most well-known Clyde puffer, VIC 32

satellite navigation, a depth sounder and radar. When I was handed the wheel in the middle of the Sound of Jura it felt wondrous slicing through the waves, in control of the great vessel despite no training, yet knowing that the moment I got bored or out of my depth the captain would take over.

If a holiday on the waves doesn't appeal, Glasgow's Riverside Museum has a number of fine models of puffers on display. These range from an early 20th century example, built on the Forth and Clyde Canal at Kirkintilloch to a model of a puffer carrying whisky from Islay to the Clyde and a model diorama of a puffer unloading stone from a sandy shore.

One of the surviving puffers is the VIC 56, built in 1945, which is based at Portsmouth Historic

Dockyard in England. It takes part in pageants and festivals and offers day trips so members of the public can experience the sensation of a trip on a historic boat.

The VIC 18, also known as The Spartan, is on display at the Scottish Maritime Museum at Irvine in Ayrshire and some may remember the VIC 27, also known as Auld Reekie, which featured as The Vital Spark in the 1994-5 BBC series of *The Tales of Para Handy*, starring Gregor Fisher.

It's no surprise Clyde puffers have enjoyed such prominence, being so striking and well-loved by steam and ship enthusiasts and non-enthusiasts alike. **S**

*When I took the wheel in the
Sound of Jura it felt wondrous
slicing through the waves*

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THE FLYING SCOT

Away from the roar of F1, motor racing legend Sir Jackie Stewart talks about the country he loves

Interview by **BERNARD BALE**

Where are your roots?

I suppose I should say, “wherever I park my car” but in reality I was born in Dumbuck, which is now known as Milton and I have been lucky enough to travel the world and have homes in Switzerland and near London. My roots always have been and always will be in Dunbartonshire, though.

Did you go to a village school?

I did but it was a bit of a disaster area as nobody knew until I was in my 40s that I was dyslexic. It meant that when I went to Hartfield Primary School I was in a class of 54 and considered to be among the dunces. Dunces are not popular, so I didn’t have many friends there. I supposed that everyone was right and I was just a dummy, whereas the truth was that I just could not read what was in front of me because of my dyslexia.

How did you cope?

Much better for being in a village in Scotland. I don’t know how kids in cities cope, but for me I just accepted that I was no good at education and compensated by getting into sport. I played a lot of football and was pretty good. Then I got into shooting and fishing and doing odd jobs with my dad who had raced cars and sold them too.

Did you have ambitions to travel the world?

Not really. I was quite happy living in a Scottish village, surrounded by the most amazing countryside, but I think I was a bit unhappy with the way school turned out and looking back I wanted to prove something. I didn’t have ambitions to be a professional sports person but I did want to be good at something. I didn’t have a desire to get out of Scotland, far from it.



I think I was about 17 but I knew she was the girl for me and she has been, right to this very day

LEFT TO RIGHT: Sir Jackie Stewart wore a helmet painted with his clan's tartan colours; Dumbarton Castle overlooks the River Clyde; Sir Jackie Stewart and his wife Lady Helen, after the former Formula One racing champion received a knighthood from the Prince of Wales

Is it true that you represented Scotland at shooting?

Actually, that is true. With my grandfather being a gamekeeper for Lord Weir on his estate at Eaglesham, I was introduced to shooting and fishing from a very early age. My grandfather, father and brother were all good shots so it may have simply been in the genes. I won the major award at my first shooting competition and after that I was encouraged to take it further. I ended up shooting for Great Britain and Scotland at many major competitions and we were quite successful, actually.

What did it mean to you to wear the Scottish badge?

I was just so proud and I knew it meant a lot to my family. I had been useless at school and to be good at something and have the great honour of representing Scotland was just amazing to me. I was still a young guy and there was probably more to come, but I had to change direction. To have your name attached to your country though is something you cannot describe, it's something you feel.

What made you walk away from it?

Shooting for my country and for Great Britain was exciting but it was still an amateur sport and something happened that made me realise I had to think about it as, 'it was great while it lasted'. My life changed when I got engaged and I certainly see that as one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Your wife, Lady Helen, is also from Scotland, isn't she?

Yes, Helen and I met, by accident, at the legendary Dino's Radio Cafe in Helensburgh. It was an ice cream parlour and I was on a blind date. My date turned up and took one look at me. That wasn't Helen. The girl I was supposed to meet ran away so there I was, none too happy with myself. Helen and I got talking and that was it. I think I was about 17 but I knew that she was the girl for me and she has been, right to this very day. We saved up and got married in 1962. We have shared everything since then. Marrying a Scottish girl was perfect for me.

Are you especially proud of the Stewart tartan?

Very much so, I still wear it as much as possible and it helps to identify the clan, as well as promote Scotland. ►



I am proud of it, that is why I used to have the tartan colours painted on my crash helmet when I was racing. I wanted everyone to know who I was and where I came from. It created a lot of interest and still does. I am Stewart by name and Royal Stewart by heritage.

How did you come to live at the 'Scottish Embassy' in London?

That was a joke. When my dear friend Jim Clark – the greatest driver I ever raced against – was also in London, we shared a house. It was early in our careers. We jokingly called it the Scottish Embassy as neither of us really wanted to be away from Scotland.

You are a legend of motor racing having won World Championships and countless other titles, do you have any outstanding memories?

All of them really, but a few things spring to mind. Every driver wants to

win the Monaco Grand Prix and I did that four times. It is not only a great race but afterwards you were a chief guest at an amazing dinner and in my day you sat next to Princess Grace. Racing at Indianapolis was an amazing experience too. I raced in my first Indy 500 in 1966 and I was ahead with eight laps to go. The engine failed and I actually pushed it part of the way home. I ended up sixth but they gave me a Rookie Award anyway. Then there was the time I was in a bad crash in the Belgian Grand Prix. I was injured and soaked in fuel so my clothes were removed. For a while I was naked in the back of a trailer full of straw. Some nuns came along, took pity on me and got me dressed! An outstanding memory.

Do you get to recommend Scotland on your travels?

All the time and I always have done. When you are proud of your country

After winning the Monaco Grand Prix, I was chief guest at a dinner in which I sat next to Princess Grace

you want as many people as possible to see it and enjoy it. I tell people about Scottish history and culture and recommend different parts of Scotland that they must see. The real joy is that you know they will love it. I often talk about visiting Fife, travelling through and up to the Cairngorms National Park, seeing the lochs and the coastline. I love it and I want people to see what I am so proud of.

Do you have a favourite piece of Scottish music?

Many, from Felix Mendelssohn's *Fingal's Cave* for which he was inspired by a trip



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LEFT TO RIGHT: Helensburgh seafront; Sir Jackie Stewart at Knockhill in Fife in 2006; the Forth Bridge crosses the Firth of Forth from near Edinburgh to Fife

to the island of Staffa, right through to The Proclaimers. My absolute favourite was my first choice when I did Desert Island Discs some years ago. I just had to have the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards playing *Amazing Grace*. It gets me every single time I hear them play it.

Do you spend much time in Scotland these days?

As much as I can. I have a home in Switzerland, which is well-placed for my wife Helen's health issues and we have another home in Buckinghamshire. I get back to Scotland quite a lot though and I am involved with a number of charities. I never accept an invitation to help a charity unless I can support it with more than just my name. I like to do my best for them.

That brings us to Race Against Dementia...

That's a subject close to my heart, of

course. With my father having had dementia and now my wife, Helen, also suffering, I have made it my goal to do as much as possible to help find a cure. I do not doubt that by thinking outside of the box and finding new ways to achieve success, we can and we will find a solution that will allow millions of people to live without dementia.

Is Scotland a part of that?

Definitely. Scotland often undersells itself. This nation has produced some of the very best innovators, explorers, scientists and thinkers that the world has ever known. I am a firm believer that people of all nations should work together to beat the various problems and ailments that we all face, but I am proud that Scotland has already contributed so much and still remains a world leader in the fight for good health and peace.

How did you feel about receiving a knighthood?

Very, very proud and not just for myself and my family, but also for Scotland. It was Prince Charles who actually conducted the investiture and he was great. He had sustained an eye injury while gardening and told me that he thought I was very brave for risking him holding the sword. He also remembered that in 1971 I was named Britain's Sportsman of the Year, the same year that his sister, Princess Anne, was named Sportswoman of the Year.

What is the best part about being Scottish?

The passion and the fact that wherever you go in the world you will be given a warm welcome just for being Scottish. It speaks a lot for the warm feeling towards the country and its people. It's good to take pride in where we come from and where we are going. **S**

HEIRS APPARENT

In the final part of our series on how to research your Scottish family, our writer looks at wills and testaments to see who is usually in line to inherit

Words by CHRIS PATON



One of the ways that we can determine the former wealth of our ancestors is to consider what was left behind after they passed away.

As well as land and property that an ancestor might have held, known as 'heritable estate', there were other assets held as 'moveable estate', including money left in a bank, furniture in the house, and other household items and clothing. The documents generated for the inheritance of these items can give us the names of family members and friends, an understanding of who owed money to the deceased, and to

whom money in turn was owed to others at the time of death.

When someone died in Scotland, different legal processes existed to determine who a relevant heir might be.

If the father in a family

died, his moveable possessions were first automatically divided by tradition into three parts. A third was given to his widow, another third was divided between the children (but not the eldest son), whilst the final third was left for the deceased to decide upon. If his wife predeceased him his estate was instead divided into two, and likewise if he had a wife but no children. The destination of the 'deid's part' was recorded in a will, but for its provisions to be enacted it had to go through the 'confirmation' process in a civil court.

Prior to 1868, land could not be bequeathed in a will.

If the deceased left a will, the court created a document called a 'testament testamentary', which included an inventory of the deceased's possessions, a copy of the will, and details of the appointed executors. If no will was left, an inventory was still recorded, and a similar document was created

called a 'testament dative'. The surviving records from this court process from 1513-1925 can be found on the ScotlandsPeople website (scotlandspeople.gov.uk).

The eldest son is often not named in such documents. Thanks to the law of primogeniture in Scotland, he could instead inherit the 'heritable estate', but to do so, he would have to go through a process that involved having his identity officially recognised by the feudal superior of the property that was held by the deceased. If the superior was the Crown, as an 'apparent heir', the son would seek recognition through a jury-based process known as the 'Services of Heirs'. If there was no surviving son, the deceased's surviving daughters instead would have equally inherited the property between them as 'heirs portioners'.

These records are held at the National Records of Scotland (nrsotland.gov.uk/research/guides/inheriting-land-and-buildings), although indexes from 1700-1859, with some basic details noting the names of heirs, are freely available on FamilySearch (familysearch.org/search/catalog/1004156).

If the property's feudal overseer was instead a locally based laird known as a 'subject superior', any heirs simply had to obtain a document from him or her known as a 'precept of clare constat', confirming their identity. While harder to locate, such documents are mentioned in the registers of sasines, which recorded land transfers, and which are also held at the NRS (see nrsotland.gov.uk/research/guides/sasines). ■

Chris Paton runs the Scotland's Greatest Story service (scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk) and is author of *Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet* and *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records*. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Genealogical Studies, and blogs at scottishgenes.blogspot.com.

If the father in a family died, his moveable possessions were divided into three parts

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HERESY, THEY SAY?

We explore the macabre witch hunts of the 16th and 17th centuries and James VI's grim obsession

Words by KIRSTEN HENTON

LEFT TO RIGHT:
The Witches' Pool
at Loch Mharabhig
on the Isle of
Lewis; portrait
of King James I
of England and
VI of Scotland
by John de Critz,
1610; woodcut
showing James
VI overseeing
the torturing
of witches at
Edinburgh, from
the 1591 edition
of 'Newes from
Scotland'

Witches, of the pointy hat and broomstick variety, have long dominated popular culture but for the people of early modern Scotland, the fear posed by witchcraft and maleficent goings-on was genuine and omnipresent.

Thousands of terrified, innocent folks were tried by the God-fearing judiciary, encouraged by the Kirk and authorised, on occasion even presided over, by the King. Here, we take a look at how and why King James VI of Scotland involved himself so in the horrifying Scottish witch trials of the 16th century.

Witch panic ebbed and flowed across Europe between the late-15th and mid-18th centuries with Scotland emerging as especially fertile and dangerous ground during the 16th and 17th centuries. Dr Louise Yeoman, historian and co-presenter of BBC Scotland's *Witch Hunt* podcast (available on BBC Sounds), says that "the way witch hunts worked is that you got a big witch 'panic' then things went too far, everybody backed off and then witch hunting ramped up again."

These waves swept across Scotland in a series of witch trials that took place in the likes of the Lothians, Strathclyde and Fife in 1590-91, 1597, 1628-31, 1649-50 and 1661-62. According to the fascinating *Survey of Scottish Witchcraft* by the University of Edinburgh, it's thought that in total, 3,837 people were officially accused of witchcraft and around 2,500 were executed, 84 per cent of whom were female, indicating misogyny was also at work.

As Dr Julian Goodare, leader of the survey and Professor of History, highlights in his article, *Remembering Scottish Witches*, "per head of population, Scotland's execution rate was about five times the European average."

The mid-16th century witnessed the watershed of the Scottish Reformation. It established the Scottish Presbyterian Kirk, a Protestant system that brought sweeping changes to society. Often likened to English Puritanism, Scottish Presbyterianism implemented strict regulations over the arts, architecture,



education and morality, while it was vehemently against superstitious or frivolous activities.

“The Scottish state and church wanted Scotland to be a very Godly society and so were zealous in cracking down on ‘sin’ of all kinds,” says Yeoman, “and accused witches were one of many categories of ‘sinner’.” Following the creation of the Reformation Parliament in 1560, The Scottish Witchcraft Act of 1563 was passed, outlawing both the practice of witchcraft and the consulting of witches.

Into the mix, we have King James VI, who succeeded to the Scottish throne at just 13 months old, following the forced abdication of his mother, Mary, Queen of Scots. Baptised Catholic, but raised by regents as a Protestant, he ruled Scotland from 1567 and, after the death of Elizabeth I and the Union of the Crowns in 1603, England and Ireland as well. Among the controversies of his reign, one of his most enduring legacies was his fascination with witchcraft.

While belief in the existence of magic was common, James is remembered for his active involvement in the persecution of witches, something that, as a monarch, Goodare says, was “unusual but not unique.” Yeoman adds that for James, “it seems to have been about facing down what he saw as ‘un-Godly’ threats to his throne and dynasty and showing that he was the Lord’s anointed doing God’s work.”

Although not the worst of Scotland’s witch hunts, the North Berwick Witch Trials of 1590-91 were personal for James and marked an escalation. In 1590, the fleet carrying his bride-to-be, Anne of Denmark, across the North Sea had to turn back owing to a dangerous storm. James then set out to collect her and on their return voyage, hit another storm. This, he believed, was the work of ►

“Per head of population, Scotland’s execution rate was five times the European average”



An extraordinary episode saw Duncan interrogated by the King himself at Holyrood

spell-casting witches and invigorated his desire to expunge un-Godly threats to his rule while feeding public anxieties.

Enter Geillis Duncan – a name no doubt familiar to any *Outlander* fan. Duncan's is a sad story of a young woman accused of witchcraft by her powerful employer who was convinced she had conspired to sink the royal fleet.

A somewhat sadistic pamphlet, *Newes From Scotland*, commissioned by James and printed in 1591 gives us a painfully clear idea of what Duncan endured. Her fingers were crushed using “*pilliwinkes*” or thumbscrews, described as “a grievous torture” and her neck was winched or twisted using a rope tied tightly around her head, “a most cruell [sic] torment”. She was stripped, shaved from top to toe, and thoroughly examined until it was declared that they had found the ‘Devil’s Mark’ on Duncan’s throat.

An extraordinary episode saw her and another accused, Agnes Sampson, interrogated – some suggest physically – by the King himself at Holyrood Palace. Forced to confess, Duncan claimed to have gathered with witches who’d concocted fanciful spells to bring about the storms. Although she retracted her confession, the damage was done; she was executed along with others falsely implicated.

What sets James apart is his determination to continue witch-hunting even when educated elites were beginning to question the validity of witchcraft. Of the 1597 witch hunt, Yeoman says James “goes too far. At the point where the most zealous ministers are backing off, James is still driving this hunt forward, even after terrible miscarriages of justice have been exposed.”

James was also quite the scribe, penning *Daemonologie* in 1597. His three-part treatise, said to have inspired elements of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, includes insights into necromancy, witchcraft and sorcery. While Goodare asserts that “the main thrust of the argument of his book was completely mainstream,” ►



FACTS VS MYTHS

There's a morbid curiosity surrounding the methods used to extract confessions from accused witches. In Scotland's case, some tall tales have lingered, so we're going to start with a bit of myth-busting.

Haunted by stories of the ducking stool as a child, I was surprised to learn that this, in fact, was largely fiction in relation to Scotland. So, it went that an accused witch was 'ducked' underwater to see if they drowned (innocent) or floated (guilty, then typically executed), thereby determining their inescapable fate, either way. This belief has long perpetuated, but Dr Goodare insists that "there are no documentary sources saying that witches were ducked in the North Loch of Edinburgh or anywhere else in Scotland – apart from a passing mention in 1597. The idea that the innocent drowned is a modern myth, originating in the 19th century."

Another misconception is that all witches were burned alive at the stake. Although witchcraft was

seen as a form of heresy, very few condemned witches were executed this way in Scotland. For the majority sentenced to death, they were garrotted – strangled with a cord or similar – before their dead bodies were then burned at the stake. Whether that's an improvement or not is another matter.

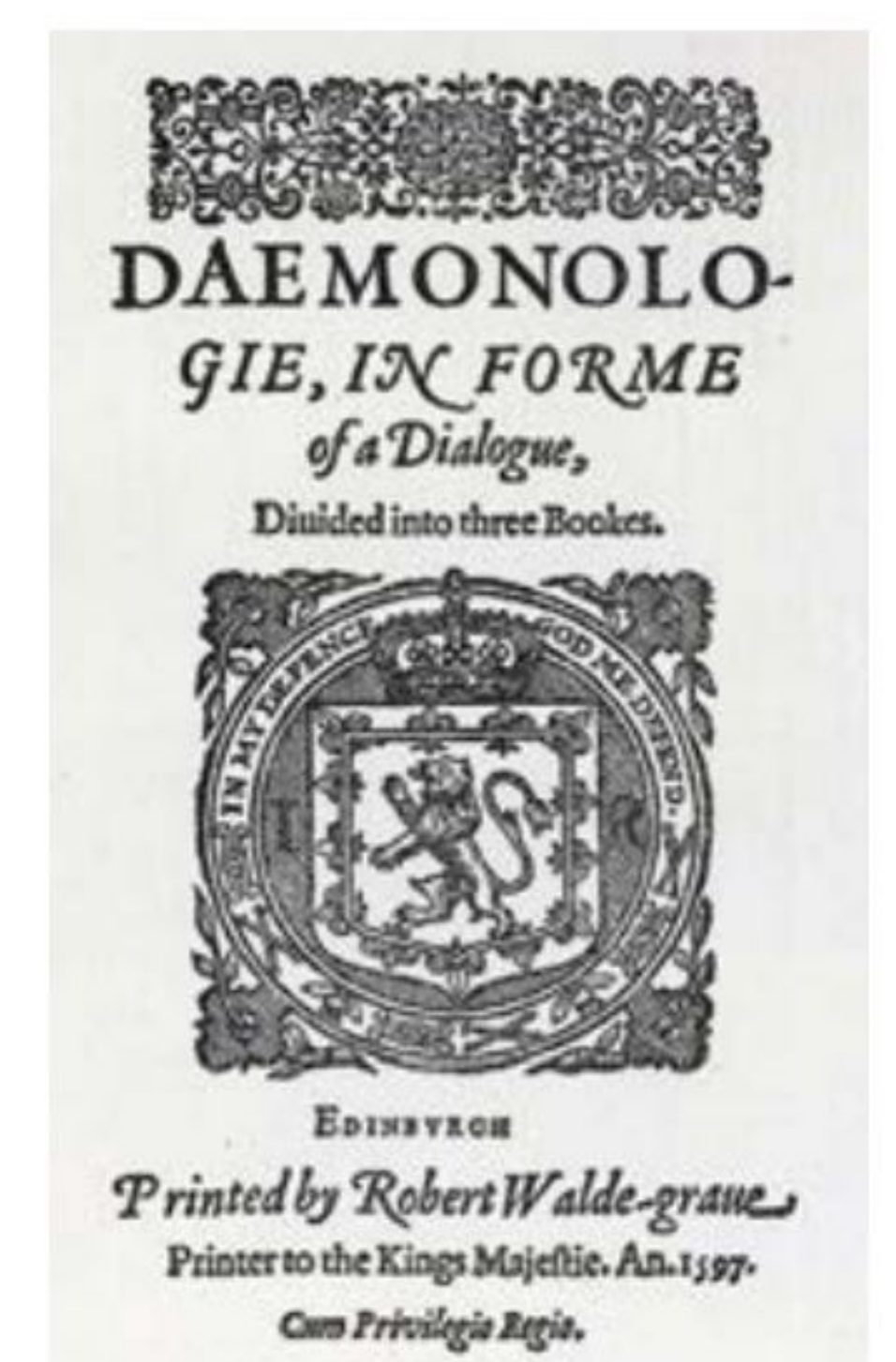
The search for the 'Devil's Mark' however, a branding bestowed upon anyone who'd made a pact with the Devil, was enacted in Scotland. It involved an invasive search of the body and 'pricking' – using pins to find a spot that was blemished or insensitive, sometimes carried out by specialist "witch-prickers".

It appears that more nuanced forms of torture were frequently employed. As stated in *The Survey of Scottish Witchcraft*, "The most common form was sleep deprivation," which was "very effective [...]" because it leads to hallucination," which inevitably gave the absurd evidence sought after.

LEFT: Geillis Duncan and the other North Berwick Witches on trial before James VI

ABOVE: North Berwick as seen from West Links, East Lothian

RIGHT: Title page of the original 1597 edition of 'Daemonologie' by James VI





James VI not only believed in witchcraft but gave witch-hunts a royal seal of approval

ABOVE: The North Berwick Witches fly round a church conjuring up storms, as confessed to James VI under interrogation

that *Daemonologie* was written by a ruling monarch must have added weight to its message. It confirmed that James not only believed in witchcraft but, referring to it as “high treason against God” gave hunts a royal seal of approval.

When James arrived in England in 1603, he was surprised to find more sceptics and fewer judges willing to prosecute

with scant evidence obtained by torture. He set about amending the law in England with The Witchcraft Act of 1604 that made hanging mandatory, but public appetite was not quite the same.

In the years following the Union of the Crowns, James inevitably focused on the bigger issues of state. “Later in his career [in England],” Yeoman explains, “he loses interest and even helps debunk some witch accusations.” Crucially, she concludes, “the biggest witch hunts come 60 to 70 years later,” after the Restoration of the Monarchy “under the government of Charles II in 1661-62.”

Scotland’s witch trials didn’t begin or end with James, but it could be said that cycles of witch panic were validated by the support of the monarch who openly stoked the embers. Goodare goes as far to say that when it comes to the impact James had on the scale of witch-hunting in Scotland, “his contribution seems, as far as I can tell, to have been pretty small but not completely negligible. He certainly was interested and thought it was important,” he continues, “[but] the intensity of the Scottish Reformation and the broader pressure for a Godly state” played a far greater role in the ferocity of Scotland’s witch hunts.

Regardless, through his active pursuit of witches, James VI will likely remain inextricably linked to the Scottish witch trials of the 16th century, which fills a forever a dark and uncomfortable chapter in Scotland’s story. **S**



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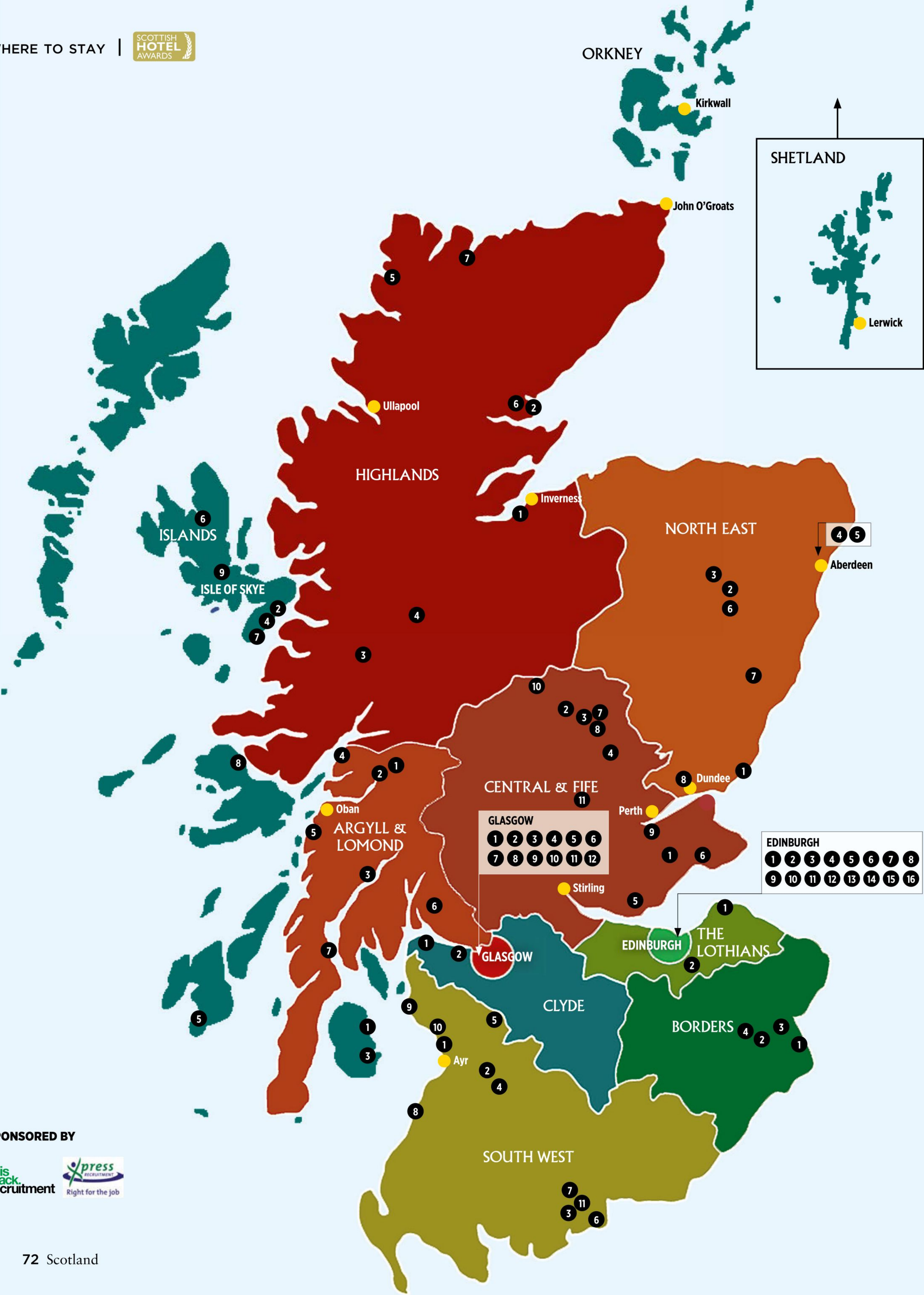
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THIS IMAGE:
Loch Lee near the
southeast edge of
the national park



A scenic landscape of Cairngorms National Park. In the foreground, there is a dense field of green ferns and tall grasses. In the middle ground, a calm lake reflects the sky, surrounded by lush green trees. In the background, majestic mountains rise under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

The Cairngorms | RURAL SCOTLAND

A map of Scotland with various regions labeled. Cairngorms National Park is highlighted in the north-central region, near the border with the Highlands. Other regions shown include Shetland, Orkney, Outer Hebrides, Skye, Mull, Argyll, Perth, Angus, Dundee, Fife, and the Scottish Borders.

Words by JOAN MCFADDEN

THE CAIRNGORMS

*Wildlife, authentic food experiences and walks
in the heart of the mountainous national park*

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THE CAIRNGORMS

*Wildlife, authentic food experiences and walks
in the heart of the mountainous national park*



**CLOCKWISE,
FROM ABOVE:**

Cook and author
Ghillie Basan
creates expert
whisky and food
pairings; Highland
cattle enjoy the
mountain habitats;
the Rothiemurchus
Farm Shop is
brimming with
specialist Scottish
produce

The Cairngorms National Park is the largest national park in the UK and is simply sublime, with wild and varied landscapes, that are home to ancient castles and monuments, wildlife and no end of stupendous walks.

Across its more than 4,500 sq km, you can find a quarter of the UK's rare and endangered species, much of which can only be found here, and local tour companies such as Glenlivet Wildlife, will help you spot elusive species such as pine marten, Scottish wildcat and black grouse, as well as give you a greater understanding of some of the many conservation and rewilding projects taking place here. The Cairngorms National Park is even home to Britain's only free-roaming herd of reindeer.

Equally, the chance to find space, solitude and epic views, is seemingly endless. Serious adventurers might want to try to scale one of the 55 munros situated here – four of Scotland's five highest mountains are right here in the Cairngorms – while for the rest of us, a bespoke tour with a group such as Wilderness Scotland will take you deep into hidden glens following old smugglers' trails in this historic whisky heartland.

And amid this land of contrasts – from the Artic-esque mountains to the heathery moorlands and the lush forests and abundant farms – Scotland's natural larder offers up the most delicious tastes and unique dishes.

Internationally renowned cook and author Ghillie Basan is a leading light on food, with 40 cookery books to her name and her latest, *Spirit & Spice*, sits beautifully alongside her whisky and food pairings in lodges, distilleries, castles, and other off-the-beaten track places – even her own home, which is located up a shooting track in the Cairngorms National Park.

“If the preferred option is my home, there's also accommodation available in my converted barn,” Ghillie says “People can enjoy this pairing of food with whisky in a whisky smugglers' glen or my traditional barn and I love creating unique combinations with them. Throughout my recipes there's a constant thread of blending, be that spices or cultures and a forage walk and bush cooking – open fires, pit oven, smoking – can be included in the overall food experience.”



In *Spirit & Spice* Ghillie delves into the Scottish larder, using her knowledge of spices to shine a new light on local ingredients. She shares her expertise in pickling, preserving, smoking and cooking outside, opening up whole new worlds of flavour with her food and whisky pairings and she can find a dram to go with any meal – breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Ghillie's farmhouse is an explosion of warmth, welcome and colour, a traditional croft dating from the early 19th century with a large airy extension facing out to the hills, with the converted stone barn allowing her to host up to 60 people at a time for workshops and tasting sessions. Everything is bought locally, topped up by foraging and growing her own vegetables and herbs, aiming to provide an experience for all the senses, not simply the taste buds.

Ghillie revels in the solitude and peace of her home, but she's never lonely. "Clients come from all over the world to enjoy the workshops and the food and whisky flavour journeys and I work closely with friends also immersed in the Cairngorms food scene, like Kirsten Gilmour, owner of the Mountain Café and the Grant family who own Rothiemurchus Estate."

The aforementioned Kirsten is New Zealand born and bred and discovered the Cairngorms on a weekend break after working in London for two years. She fell in love with the place and with a Scotsman – Alastair – and 16 years ago opened a café in Aviemore with a very definite plan in mind. "I love Scottish food and I also love the New Zealand café culture and my aim was to blend both in the café" she says "Recently Ghillie has been teaching me so much about spice blending. The food traditions here are really important to me, like using certain cheeses made by the same family for generations."

The Mountain Café became renowned for its award-winning food and welcoming atmosphere, with even the most energetic outdoor enthusiasts considering the portions ample enough to keep them fuelled going into the mountains. There are breakfast and lunch menus, packed lunch options, utterly astounding cakes and the chance to try them all for yourself with Kirsten's *The* ➤

Amid this land of contrasts, Scotland's natural larder offers up delicious and unique dishes





PLAN YOUR VISIT

WALKING

Wilderness Scotland offers six-night walking tours of the Cairngorms and Royal Deeside in groups of up to eight.
wildernessscotland.com

WILDLIFE-SPOTTING

From the comfort of a Land Rover safari, you can go off-road on the Glenlivet Estate with Glenlivet Wildlife, with every chance of spotting some of Scotland's rarest animals.
glenlivet-wildlife.co.uk

SPIRIT & SPICE

Cook and writer Ghillie Basan runs food and whisky experiences in remote locations in the national park, from her cosy cottage to castles and lodges.
ghilliebasan.com

MOUNTAIN CAFÉ

Food and coffee with a New Zealand-style edge but resolutely Scottish ingredients in Grantown-on-Spey.
mountaincafe-aviemore.co.uk

ROTHIEMURCHUS FARM SHOP

Located on the vast and spectacular Rothiemurchus Estate, this shop offers some of the finest beef and venison.
rothiemurchus.net

Mountain Café Cookbook. “Our food is fresh, locally sourced, cooked from scratch with a kiwi twist,” says Kirsten “I can tell you where all our produce comes from. Everything is cooked from scratch and our customers will happily wait for 20 minutes for that quality with full confidence that they’ll love every mouthful.”

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the Mountain Café has been forced to close its café in the Cairngorms’ main town of Aviemore and has moved operations to Grantown-on-Spey, where it continues to sell its bread and cakes and plans are afoot to move into new permanent premises in Grantown.

The Rothiemurchus Farm Shop, part of the Rothiemurchus Centre at the foot of Cairngorm Mountain, is another favourite of Ghillie’s – she buys all her specialist goods and cheese there. It’s run by another food enthusiast, Philippa Grant of Rothiemurchus MBE, Countess of Dysart. “Rothiemurchus is a National Scenic Area and home to some of Scotland’s most rare and at-risk wildlife,” says Philippa “Speyside has a very long tradition of producing the finest produce and drink, which has become renowned throughout the world,” she says.

“Spey salmon, Scotch beef from Speyside, Speyside whisky and game – the Grants of Rothiemurchus have always been closely associated with this tradition. My husband Johnnie and I share a love of food and drink and we’ve both been fortunate to have lived in France and Italy where regional specialities are celebrated. People return to Rothiemurchus because as well as being stunningly beautiful, it has a special feeling.”

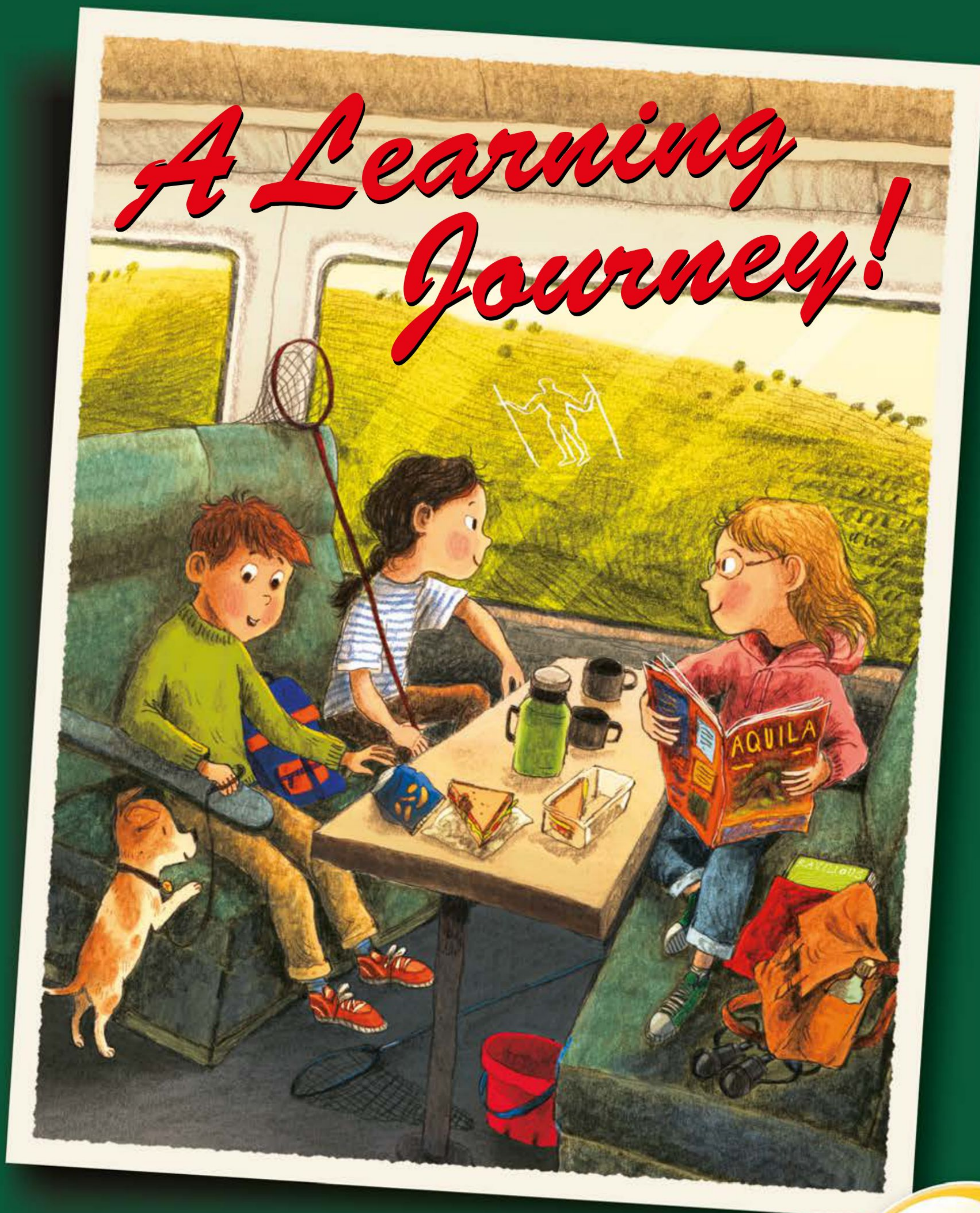
Rothiemurchus specialises in velvety venison and matured traditional Highland beef and the shop also boasts fresh and smoked fish, seasonal selections of cheese from amazing artisan cheesemakers both near and further away, locally roasted coffee and local hand-stirred organic preserves and chutneys, among other things. The Druie Café next door is also famed for homemade scones and cakes and you can even take a ranger-led tour through the estate to see deer and Highland cows.

From tiny tastes to mouth-watering feasts, the Cairngorms offer something very special and unforgettable, with chefs ploughing the natural larder to create food experiences that make the most of the natural setting. **S**

LEFT:
The Cairngorms is
home to Britain's
only free-roaming
herd of reindeer
THIS IMAGE:
The ascent
up one of the
national park's 55
munros begins



• AQUILA CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE •



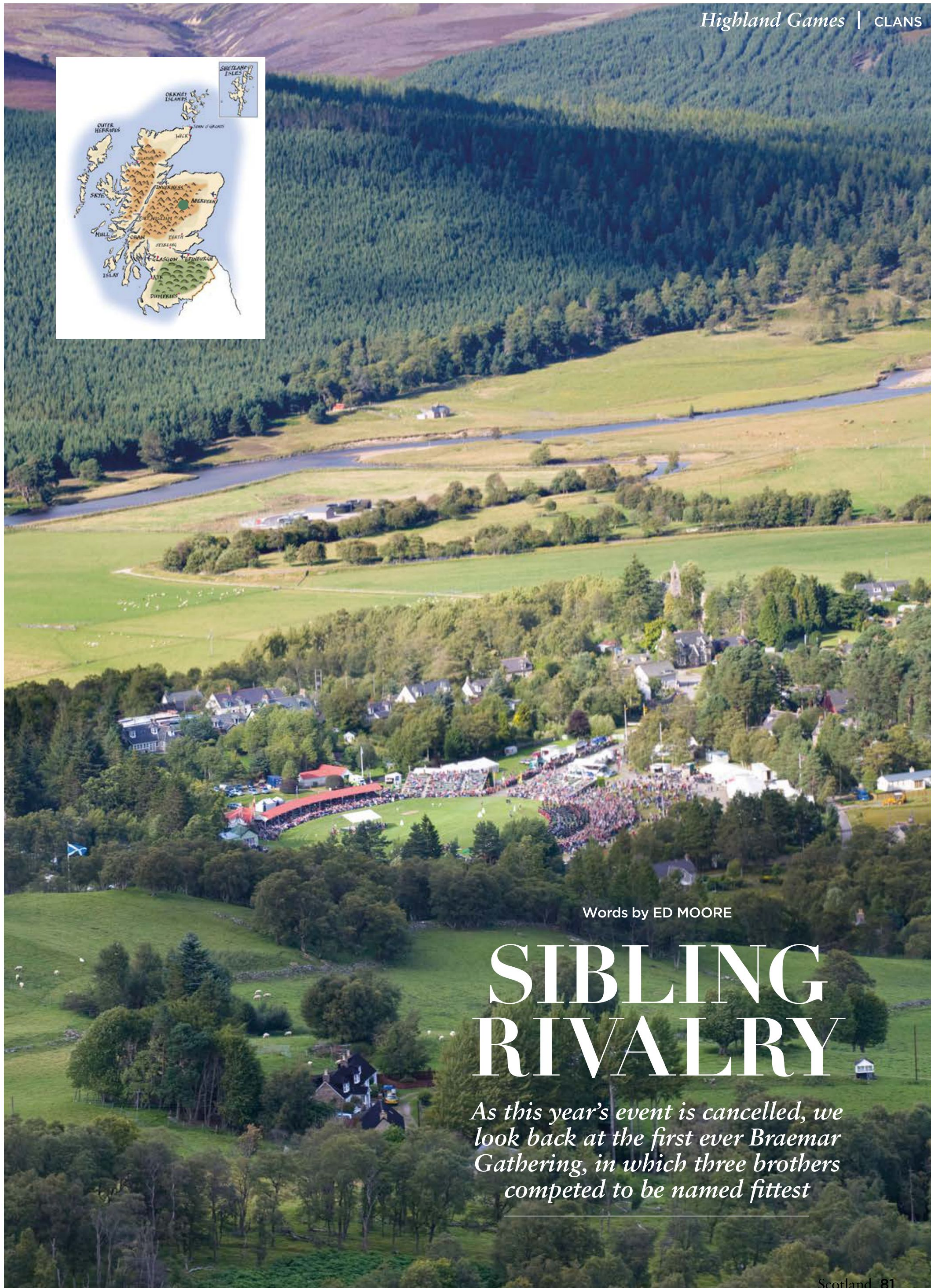
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& PHILOSOPHICAL,
CURIOUS &
PUZZLING”**

RICHARD ROBINSON,
BRIGHTON SCIENCE
FESTIVAL



Words by ED MOORE

SIBLING RIVALRY

As this year's event is cancelled, we look back at the first ever Braemar Gathering, in which three brothers competed to be named fittest



From the earliest times, chieftains would arrange races among their clansmen to find the fastest man available for carrying messages in times of emergency. In the wild and mountainous Highlands, where no roads existed and the peat bogs, boulders and debris were likely to slow down or cripple even the most sure-footed horse, the quickest means of communication by far was a man running across country.

The ‘crann tara’, or fiery cross, was the age-old method of mustering the clansmen in time of need. It was made of two pieces of wood fastened together in the shape of a cross, with one end aflame and the other blood-soaked. Runners were dispatched to all points of the compass. As they ran, they shouted their clan’s war cry and the place and time to assemble.

In very early times, the MacGregors of Ballochbuie were legendary figures of fleetness and strength in Mar and Balmoral. In the day of Malcolm Ceann Mor (King Malcolm III, 1058-93),

the king decreed that a great race should be run up one of the steep, rocky peaks above Braemar, Creag Choinnich. He offered as a prize a splendid claymore and a purse of gold to the first runner to reach the top. On the level grassy ground

PREVIOUS PAGE:

The Braemar Gathering is usually held annually

THIS PAGE, TOP:

The Linn of Dee, a beauty spot near Braemar

INSET:

King Malcom III

Runners were dispatched to all points of the compass. As they ran, they shouted their clan’s war cry and the place and time to assemble



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT:
A British stamp dedicated to the Braemar games; Prince Charles and Princess Anne (centre) attend the Braemar Gathering; spectators enjoy the pomp and ceremony; Highland dancing features just as prominently as the athletics events

between the base of the hill and the River Dee, the king, his nobles and the people of the district assembled on the morning of the great day.

Most conspicuous among the competitors were the two older sons of MacGregor of Ballochbuie. The pair had already achieved earlier fame by leading a large hunting party in pursuit of a wild boar. The oldest boy had led the field, chasing the animal from Glen Callater through Glen Cluny, then across the Cairngorms and back again to the River Dee at Balmoral – all in the course of a single day's hunting.

No doubt many of the assembled thought the older MacGregor brothers would again be the most fleet of foot. But as the participants set off up the rocky incline of Creag Choinnich, the third and youngest MacGregor brother, arriving late, pleaded with the king to be allowed to compete.

The king good-humoredly told the lad that he was too late, but the boy pressed his case, earnestly and at length, until the king finally agreed.

In his book *Legends of the Braes O' Mar*, John Grant gives a vivid account of what happened next: "The race became more and more exciting. Some of those farthest to the rear had indeed ►

Between the base of the hill and the River Dee, the king, his nobles and the people of the district assembled on the morning of the great day



given up; but all those who weren't despairingly far behind, put forth thew [muscle] and sinew and pressed close after each other, ready to take advantage of every accident. The two older MacGregors had indeed left the others considerably behind, but they both might fail; now was the critical moment."

Grant goes on to describe how the young MacGregor sprang forward with "unabated energy", overtaking his rivals one by one until he caught up with his brothers.

According to Grant (and local legend), the younger brother offered to stop if his brothers were willing to share the winnings, but his siblings were not so generous.

"Gain what you can," said the brother who had won the boar hunt, "and keep what you can. I will do the same." His other brother didn't even have enough puff to speak.

There was a fierce battle to the end but ultimately the youngest brother was victorious – reaching the top in just three minutes.

Thus, the origin of the Braemar games, still attended by the British Royal Family (Queen Victoria was the first royal to give it her seal of approval), can be traced back nine centuries to a king who turned the well-known athleticism of clansmen into competitions for glory and three brothers who fought to the end for victory. **S**

THE BRAEMAR HIGHLAND GAMES CENTRE

This museum in The Duke of Rothesay Highland Games Pavilion, within the grounds of the Princess Royal & Duke of Fife Memorial Park (where the Gathering usually takes place each September) houses an incredible archive of materials relating to the more formal gathering, as it has run since at least 1832. Check updates about opening.

highlandgamescentre.org

CLOCKWISE, FROM FAR RIGHT: Judges at Braemar; competitors in action; the view of Braemar from Morrone, including the surrounding Cairngorms National Park

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If you are interested in joining any of these Scottish Societies, please contact them at the address shown and they will be happy to provide you with membership information.



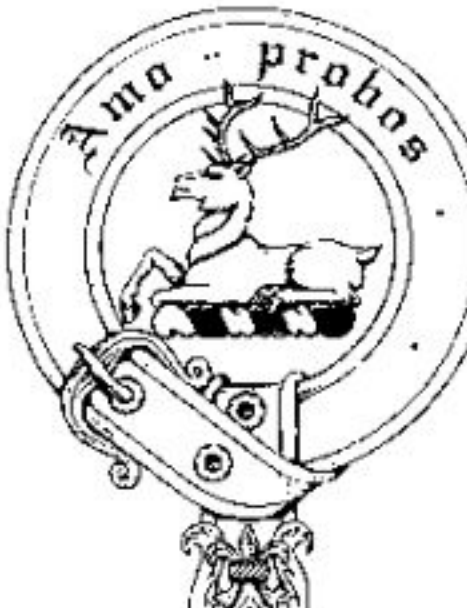
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Clan Cunningham International
Open to all Cunninghams and associated families from the District of Cunninghame. Write to:
Kathleen Lester
2201 CR 44800
Blossom, TX 75416
www.clancunninghamintl.org



CLAN DAVIDSON SOCIETY
Invites membership from Davidsons of all spellings and of all septs and descendants from Scotland. Write for application form:
John Dawson
PMB 132, 10 Benning St.
Lebanon, NH 03784
john@jdawsonservices.com
www.clandavidsonusa.com



CLAN DONALD, U.S.A., Inc.
www.ClanDonaldUSA.org
Membership is open only to persons of the blood of MacDonald, however spelt, or of the blood of a recognized associated family, however spelt, or is related by marriage or legal adoption to either of these. Write for information and a complete Sept list.
Marion Schmitz, USA Secretary
1685 Casitas Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91103
zb4ms@juno.com



Clan DOUGLAS Society
www.clandouglasociety.org
RECOGNIZED SEPTS & ALLIED FAMILIES
Agnew, Bell, Blackadder, Blackett, Blacklock, Blackwood, Blaylock, Breckinridge, Brown, Brownlee, Carmichael, Carruthers, Cavan, Cavers, Cleland, Clendenon, Crockett, Dalzell, Deal, Dick, Dickson, Dixon, Drysdale, Forest, Forrester, Foster, Galbraith, Gilpatrick, Glendenning, Glenn, Hamilton, Harkness, Home, Hume, Inglis, Kilgore, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Kirkland, Lockerby, Lockery, Lockhart, MacGuffey, MacGuffock, Maxwell, McKittrick, Moffat, Morton, Pringle, Rowell, Rowle, Rule, Rutherford, Sandlin, Simms, Soule, Sterrett, Syme, Symington, Troup, Turnbull, Weir, Younger
A DOUGLAS! A DOUGLAS!
Jim Morton, Secretary
626 Mountain Lake Cr; Blue Ridge, GA 30513
770-265-2717 DouglasSecretary@comcast.net



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CONTACT: Kathryn Dunbar, Secretary, PO Box 1493, Tomball, TX 77377-1493; Chieftain@ClanDunbar.org
www.ClanDunbar.com

CLAN ELLIOT SOCIETY, U.S.A.



Welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family. William Elliott, Clan President. Direct inquiries to:

Membership-Treasurer
Jim Dougherty
1600 Webb Town Road
Tunnel Hill, IL 62792
<https://elliottclan-usa.com>



CLAN GUNN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

www.clangunn.us

Allisterson	Henderson	MacDhaidh	MacRory	Robson
Corner	Inrig	MacEnrick	MacSheoras	Rorison
Crownar	Jameson	MacGeorge	MacWilliam	Sandison
Crowner	Jamieson	MacHamish	Magnus	Swan
Cruiner	Jamison	MacIan	Magnusson	Swann
Cruner	Johnson	Mackames	Main	Swanney
Eanrig	Kean	Mackeamis	Mann	Swanson
Enrick	Keene	Mackeamish	Manson	Thomson
Galdie	MacAllister	Mackean	Manus	Tomson
Gallie	MacChrur	Mackendrick	More	Will
Ganson	MacComas	MacMains	Neilson	Williamson
Gauldie	MacCorkill	MacManus	Nelson	Wills
Gaunson	MacCorkle	MacNeill	Robeson	Wilson
George	MacCullie	MacOmish	Robinson	Wylie
Gorgeson	MacDade	MacRob	Robison	Wyllie

For information contact: Chuck Jamison, Membership Secretary
9382 Blue Oak Drive, Orangevale CA 95662
Email: clangunnmembership@gmail.com

Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron

Alexander H. Irvine, 27th Baron & Laird of Drum,
Chief of the name

Contact:

Barbara Edelman

65 Colonial Drive

Telford, PA 18969

215-721-3955

barb3.edelman@gmail.com

www.clanirwin.org

www.facebook.com/groups/clanirwin

* Twitt@Clan_Irwin

IRWIN * IRVINE * IRVIN * IRVING * ERWIN

And the many other spellings of the name



FORBES

CLAN-FORBES.ORG

@ClanForbesSociety

president@clan-forbes.org

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Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the Society.

Inquiries should be sent to:

Sherril Lambert, Treasurer

PO Box 5399

Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Visit our website:

<http://www.clanhamilton.org>

KENNEDY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



cordially invites membership inquiries from all descendants of Kennedy and the Clan Septs: Cannaday Kanaday Cassels Cassillis Carrick MacUlrick MacWalrick Ulric (some spellings may vary)

Colleen Caldwell, Membership Chairman

Kennedy Society of North America

2115 Pierpont S. Estates

Morgantown, West Virginia 26508

c_caldwell83@yahoo.com

www.kennedysociety.net



The CLAN FRASER SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



Operating under the authority of
The RT. Hon. Lady Saltoun,
Chief of the name of Fraser
The RT Hon. Lord Lovat,
Of the Clan Fraser of Lovat

Registered members are invited to share in the bond of this heritage and receive the Nessie newsletter.

For membership and information please visit
www.CFSNA.com



The Clan Hannay Society

For those with family names of
Hannay, Hannah, Hanna and Hanney.
Membership Sec: Mrs. Jacquie Hannay
5 Picket Cross, Bankend Road, Dumfries
DG1 4AH SCOTLAND
www.clanhannay.org



clan hay

April Rich
Membership Chair
218 Oxbow Drive

Willimantic, CT 06226

clanhaymembership@hotmail.com

www.ClanHay.com

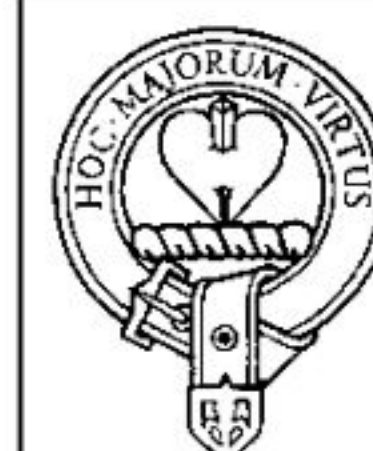
The American Branch of the
First Family of Scotland welcomes inquiries
from descendants of Hay / Hayes / Haynes,
Constable, Delgatie, Erroll, Gifford, Leith,
MacGarra, Peebles and Turriff

Clan Leslie Society International



The Honorable Alexander Leslie
Chief of Clan Leslie
Loren Leslie, Chieftain
Septs: Abernethy, Bartholomew, Carnie,
Lang & More (Moore)
Send inquiries to: Linda Flowers, CLSI
Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK 73089

Email: lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net www.clanlesliesociety.org



CLAN LOGAN SOCIETY

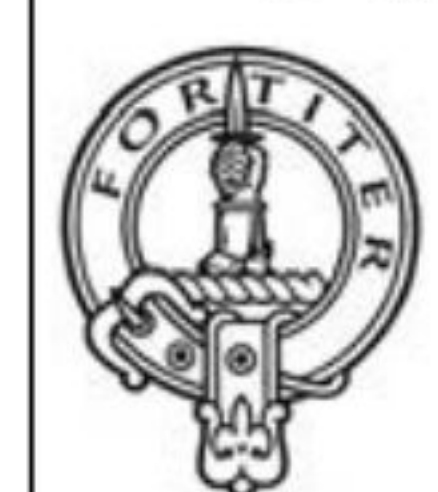
One Name – One Family – One Heritage
www.ClanLoganSociety.com

Membership is open to all persons descended from or connected by marriage or adoption to the LOGANS of the UK (Scotland) & Ireland, and their friends.

Membership Info Contact: ClanLoganMembership@yahoo.com
Or write: Clan Logan Society

P.O. Box 241, Oak Island, NC 28465

Clan MacAlister Society



An Educational 501(c)(3) Non Profit Corp.
Representing MacAlister
Clansmen Worldwide

MacAlester, Alexander, Alison, Alister, Loup,
Lister, Sanders, Sandy, Saunders

Stewart McA. Flora, Chairman
clanmacalisterpres@gmail.com
www.ClanMacAlisterSociety.org



Organized July 1975
The first worldwide
Clan Graham Organization

CLAN GRAHAM SOCIETY

Ne Oublie • "Do Not Forget" to join us!

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www.facebook.com/ClanGrahamSociety



Clan Grant Society-USA

Allan	Cairns	MacKerron
Bisset	Gilroy	MacKieran
Bissett	MacAllan	Pratt
Bowie	MacGilroy	Suttie
Buie	MacIlroy	More of Drumcork

(And spelling variations)

RAND ALLAN, Membership Secretary

6102 Calle Vera Cruz

La Jolla, CA 92037

(858) 454-3846

secretary@clangrant-us.org president@clangrant-us.org

www.clangrant-us.org

Clan Henderson Society, Inc.



Henderson	Hendry	McKendry
Henryson	Henry	McKendree
Henrisoun	Hendrie	Kendrick
Henders	Hendron	and other
MacHendry	d'Handresson	versions of
McHendry	MacKendrick	MacEanruig
MacHenry	McKendrick	"son of
McHenry	MacKendry	Henry"

President
Tom Hendricks
2509 SW 45th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73119
(405) 685-9734
tomff2376@yahoo.com

Membership Secretary
Mark Henderson
204 Beagle Gap Run
Waynesboro, VA 22980
(540) 447-6783, (540) 221-4642
Hendo28@comcast.net



Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

Valerie McDougall, VP Membership
PO Box 338047, Greeley, CO. 80633

Email: membership@macdougall.org • www.macdougall.org

www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall

Names Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll
and Clan MacDowall of Galloway

Coul	MacCulloch	Dulothe	MacCowan	MacDugle
Conacher	MacClintock	MacDoual	M'Gowall	MacDowall
Coyle	MacCowan	MacDougall	MacLintock	McDowall
Dole	MacHale	McDougle	MacLugash	MacCullich
Dowdle	MacHowell	MacDugal	Macoual	MacCullagh
Doual	MacKichan	MacDowal	MacConcher	McLintock
Dougal	MacLinden	Macdowell	MacDill	McCown
Dougle	MacLucas	McLulich	McDoll	Mactheul
Dugal	MacCoul	McCulloch	MacDulothe	McCown
Dowall	MacConacher	MacLintock	MacDougal	MacNamell
MacDowall	MacCoyle	Macowen	MacDougald	MacClintock
Lulich	MacDole	McHoul	McDougald	MacLuke

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc



The Clan Gregor Society

Est. 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland

Worldwide organization for MacGregors
Inquiries to: Pat McGregor Skelton

139 Dixon Circle

Fayetteville, GA 30214



Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA

President & Commissioner: Stephen Hope

president@clanhope.org

commissioner@clanhopeaustralia.org

www.clanhopeaustralia.org

UNITED STATES of AMERICA

High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope

highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org

Membership Chair: Janet Hope Highton

membership@clanhope.org

www.clanhope.org

CANADA

Commissioner: Scott Hale

commissioner@clanhope.ca

www.clanhope.ca

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanHopeofCraighall>



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www.clanmacfarlane.org

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For membership information please visit our website or contact:

Sandy Morgan at 806-359-6064



MACGREGOR

AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

The original Clan Gregor organization in America since 1909. Membership inquiries nationwide are cordially welcomed from Mac-Gregors of all spellings and Septs.

Gregor	Grier	MacAdams	McNish
Gregory	King	Magruder	Peter
Gregg	Lecky	McGehee	many others

Contact: Jeanne P. Lehr, 11 Ballas Court
St Louis, MO 63131-3038
www.acgsus.org

Clan MacLaren

Society of North America

MACLAREN MACLAURIN LAWRENCE LAWSON LOW[E] LOW[E]RY LAW[E] PATTERSON MACPATRICK MACRORY



Recognized by the Chief of Clan MacLaren

Mark McLaren, FSA Scot
President
611 Indian Home Rd.
Danville, CA 94526
greatscot@earthlink.net



Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

We invite MacRaes of all spelling variations and their descendants to join our membership in preserving the traditions of our Clan.

Please send inquiries to: Bruce McRae, *President*
brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com
303-670-9611
www.macrae.org



CLAN MACGILLIVRAY SOCIETY U.S.A.

Membership invited from all U.S. residents of or connected to the name in any of its recognized forms.

INQUIRIES TO:
Roger H. Johnston
4805 Dentcrest Dr, Apt A
Midland, TX 79707-3711
e-mail: texscott@att.net

Visit the Clan Website: <http://www.clanmacgillivray.net>

CLAN MacLELLAN



John B. McClellan, Jr.
Treasurer
Clan MacLellan
383 Ash Brook Lane
Sunnyvale, TX 75182-3250
treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

Welcomes MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage.

Family names include: MacClellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d), Clellan(d) Gilliland.

Scholarships available for Scottish studies.
Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net



CLAN MACTAVISH Inc.

The only organization authorized and under the patronage of the 27th Hereditary Chief of Clan MacTavish, Steven MacTavish of Dunardry.

Anyone bearing the name of MacTavish or any of the recognized connected names and their descendants and all variant spellings are invited to join us to celebrate our history. Members receive a newsletter, the "Non Oblitus" and support in doing family genealogy.

**Cash - MacTavish - Stephenson - Stevens
Stevenson - Thompson - Thomson**

For membership information please visit us at
www.clanmactavish.org
www.Facebook.com/ClanMacTavish
or contact: Clan MacTavish Treasurer

Clan MacTavish 23 Garland Rd.
membershipsecretary.mactavish@gmail.com Lancaster, NH 03584



CLAN MacINNES

Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)
All spelling variants incl. (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Ninch, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Canse, etc. Worldwide. All are welcome.

Visit www.clanmacinnes.org
Eric Perry, Director-Member Services
14 Jakes Lane, Dexter, ME 04930; eric@macinnes.org



CLAN MACLEOD

Nine Global Societies

Cordially invites membership inquiries from MacLeods, any spelling, sept families, their descendants and other interested persons.

Askey	Harrold	MacCaskill	MacLewis
Auley	Lewis	MacClure	MacLure
Beaton	MacAllum	MacCorkill	MacRaid
Bethune	Macandie	MacCorkindale	MacWilliam
Beton	Maccaskie	MacCorkle	Malcolmson
Callam	Macaskill	MacCorquodale	Norie
Callum	MacAulay	MacCrimmon	Norrie
Caskey	McCabe	MacCraig	Norman
Caskie	MacCaig	MacGillechallum	Normand
Grimmond	MacCallum	MacHarold	Tolmie
Harold	MacCaskie	MacKaskill	Williamson

Newsletters, Genealogy, Annual Meetings
Membership info: annelmacleod@comcast.net
www.clanmacleodusa.org **HOLD FAST!**

The Clan MacThomas

SEPT NAMES

Combie	MacOmie
McColm	MacOmish
McComas	Tam
McComb(e)	Thom
McCombie	Thomas
McComie	Thoms
McComish	Thomson



www.clanmacthomas.org
Andrew MacThomas of Finegand, 19th Chief, welcomes members.
Please direct inquiries to:
Cathy McComb Ludemann
North American Branch
membership-na@clanmacthomas.com



Clan MacKinnon Society

welcomes you!

Join the worldwide family of MacKinnons today!
Learn more and become a member at
www.TheMacKinnon.com

Also at ClanMacKinnonSociety@gmail.com
f @TheMacKinnon t @The_MacKinnon



Clan Macnaughtan Association Worldwide

Chairman Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451
We welcome membership from all Scots named MACNAUGHTON or any of the Septs listed on our Website. Contact the Membership Secretary, Vice Chairman or Regional Commissioners in:

USA - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton
541-401-2613 membershipsec@clanmacnaughton.net
W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton
250-999-9636 milescammac@aol.com
Australia - Regional Commissioner Bruce McNaught
+61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucecmnaught.com
New Zealand - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaughtan
+64 9 441 4984 macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz
www.clanmacnaughton.net

Sir Malcolm F. Macnaghten of Macnaghten, Bart. Chief of Clan



CLAN MAITLAND SOCIETY

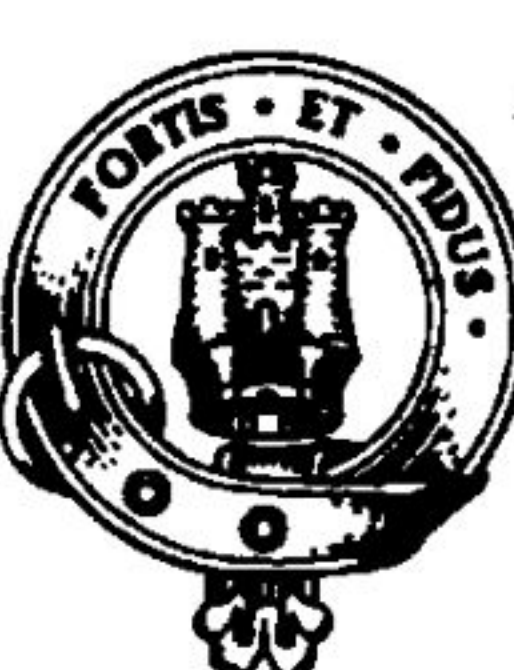
CHIEF: IAN MAITLAND
The Earl of Lauderdale
WE ARE ALL RELATED!
Contact your local society

NORTH AMERICA
Rosemary Maitland Thom
Rthomnvprdcn@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

AUSTRALIA
Carole Maitland
4230 Colac-Lavers Hill Road, Weeaprounah, VIC 3237
carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au

NEW ZEALAND
Judette Maitland
33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012 NZ
judette@xtra.co.nz

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at:
www.clanmaitland.org.uk



Clan MacLachlan Association of North America, Inc.

All spellings of MacLachlan, Gilchrist and MacEwen.
Founded in 1965.

John D. Cherry, Jr.
President
JCherry@aol.com
www.maclachlans.org

www.facebook.com/ClanMacLachlanSociety



Clan MacNicol of North America

Chief John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

Clan MacNicol, a small but vibrant Clan active in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Scotland and the U.S.A. From the misty Isle of Skye, the Hebrides and the Northwest Highlands, the sons and daughters of MacNicol, Nicol, Nicolson (and of other spelling variations) have spread to six continents. Nearly two centuries ago, the Chiefly line emigrated to Australia where it thrives to this day.

Membership open to all who acknowledge the Clan Chief as its leader and wish to join the Society.

New members receive a copy of the book on Clan history and two Clan newsletters during the year.

President and Deputy Membership Secretary
Jeremy Nicholson
Website www.clanmacnicol.org
E-mail presidentna@clanmacnicol.org
Postal Address P.O. Box 501166
Atlanta, GA 31150-1166, USA

Canadian Membership Secretary
Jacques McNicoll
Website www.clanmacnicol.org
E-mail mcnicollclan@videotron.qc.ca
Postal Address 202 rue Berlioz - Apt. 203,
Verdun, Québec H3E 1B8, Canada



CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

2021 International
Clan Gathering & Parliament
July 8-11, 2021

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Chief of Clan Matheson,

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Visit www.clanmathesonusa.org for more information
Colvin Matheson, Chief's Lieutenant, USA
colvinmatheson@verizon.net



Clan Macneil

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Invites all Macneils . . . regardless of surname spelling, some of which are listed below:

MCNEILL	MACNEIL	MACNEAL	MACNIEL
MCNEELY	NEAL	NELSON	O'NEILL

to join us in preserving our heritage. Contact: Sally Mitchell, VP Membership, 5577 Prince Phillip Way, Stone Mountain, GA 30087, 770-713-3544; email: membrshipcma@gmail.com

Clan Maxwell SOCIETY

Adair
Blackstock
Dinwiddie
Dinwoodie
Edgar
Herries
Kirk
Kirkland
Latimer
Latimore
MacKittrick



Maxton
Mescall
Monreith
Moss
Nithsdale
Paulk
Peacock
Polk
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Sturgeon
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P.O. Box 4061 Mount Holly, NJ 08060
www.ClanMaxwellUSA.com

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Among the Most Ancient Families of Scotland. If you are a descendant of Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalk, Poalke, Poulk, Poolke, Pogue, you are cordially invited to contact:

Archie D. Pollock, Jr.
P. O. Box 404, Greenville, Ky 42345
(615) 456-1699 apollockis@comcast.net

Clan Ross America

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Paul D Ross, President
Virg Bumann, VP Membership
1015 Archer St. San Diego, CA 92109
membership@clanross.org
info@clanross.org
www.clanross.org

Clan Wallace Society

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For more information
contact our membership
chairman at membership@clanwallace.org.

Membership Chairman:
Charles Wallace
4634 N. Beechwood Drive
Macon, GA 31210-2304

website: <http://clanwallace.org>



Menzies Clan Society

Sìol na Meinnrich

Join us!

For information and membership visit us at www.menzies.org or write to:
Menzies Clan Society
c/o Menzies Law, St Brandon's House,
29 Great George Street, Bristol, BS1 5QT, UK
Email: membership.menzies@gmail.com

We welcome all Menzies and those of our Septs, including:
Dewar, MacMeans, MacMinn, MacMinnis, MacMonies, Means, Minn, Minnis, Monies, Mings, Minges, Mingus, Mein, Mengues, Mennie, Menzie, Monzie, Meyners

CLAN SHAW SOCIETY

Invites membership or inquiries from all:
Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shiach, Sheach, Sheath, Seith, Seth, Skaith, Scaith and Shay.

Mike Shaw, Secretary
2403 West Crawford
Denison, TX 75020

Clan Young

"We Ride!"

A charitable & social organization formed to promote fellowship among those surnamed Young, descendants of any Scotsman and anyone interested in all things Scottish.

For membership information, contact
Linda Young-Sheiko
Membership Secretary
(616) 581-2229
clanyoungmembership@yahoo.com www.clanyoungsociety.com

St. Andrew's Society of Albany

FOUNDED 1803
150 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210
(518) 463-5996
www.standrewssocietyalbany.org
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"Faire Sans Dire"

CLAN MOFFAT SOCIETY

Invites membership from Moffats of all spellings. Spouses and those legally adopted by Moffats are also eligible for membership.

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Moffit	Moffitt	Maffat	Maffatt
Maffet	Maffett	Maffit	Maffitt
Muffat	Muffatt	Muffet	Muffett
Muffit	Muffitt	Morphat	Morphatt
Morphet	Morphett	Morphit	Morphitt

Other spelling variations may be recognized!
www.clanmoffat.org

Clan Sinclair Association, Inc. (U.S.A.)



Do you know who came to North America almost 100 years before Columbus' famous voyage?
Prince Henry Sinclair in 1398

Come join (and enjoy) your Sinclair family

President Tom H. Robinson 2758 Bridal Wreath Lane Dallas, TX 75233 TomHRobinson@aol.com	Membership Contact Keith A. Sinclair 210 Glen Mar Drive Lenoir City, TN 37772 ClanSincMembership@gmail.com
--	---

For a list of spelling variations and septs
Website: www.clansinclairusa.org

Illinois St. Andrew Society

The Scottish Home
2800 Des Plains Avenue
N. Riverside, IL 60546

The Illinois St. Andrew Society nourishes Scottish identity through service, fellowship and celebration of Scottish Culture.
www.chicago-scots.org

St Andrews Society of the City of Milwaukee




www.standrewssocietymilwaukee.org
Contact: Tom Westgaard, FSA Scot
Phone 414-421-1598
P.O. Box 210288
Milwaukee, WI 53221-8005

Muirhead Clan Society

www.clanmuirhead.com

Chev. Raymond L. Morehead, GOTJ, FSA Scot.
President/Chief Elect
6522 194th Avenue E. Bonney Lake, WA 98391
1-253-219-8736
E-mail: raymond@clanmuirhead.com

The Clan Stewart Society In America

Membership is open to all who are connected to the House of Stewart through any of the branches and by persons interested in the history of the Stewarts and Scotland. Inquiries to:

Rayanna Meyer - Secretary
P.O. Box 505, Coahoma, TX 7951
www.clansstewart.org

St. Andrew's Society of Detroit

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www.detroitscots.com

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Website: www.Clanmunrousa.org
Heather Munro Daniel, Membership Secretary
4600 Lloyd Town Rd, Mebane, NC 27302

Clan Uisdean, USA

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Mindful of Knowledge & Labor

Dedicated to the preservation of the legacy of the families McCuistion, McCuiston, McQuiston, McQuistion, McQuesten, McChristian, McQuestion, McQuestion and all variations thereof in the United States, who are descendants of Uisdean, son of Alexander McDonald, Lord of the Isles, Earl of Ross and Justiciar of the Highlands. Uisdean is also a descendant of Robert the Bruce, hero-king of Scotland.

Contact: BJ McCuiston, Secretary, PO Box 2193
Gilroy, CA 95021-2193 or billiejo@garlic.com

Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York

150 East 55th Street - 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10022

David M. Murphy, 103rd President
Tel. 212/223-4248; Fax 212/223-0748
www.standrewsny.org

MURRAY CLAN SOCIETY of North America

Applications for membership are invited from Murrays and the following allied families: Balneaves, Neaves, Dinsmore, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Piper, Pyper, Smail, Smales, Smeal, and Spalding.

In Canada contact:
William J. M. Murray
1001 Cordero Crescent
Campbell River, BC V9H 0C3

In U.S. contact:
Robert W. Murray
2000 Cambridge Ave #329
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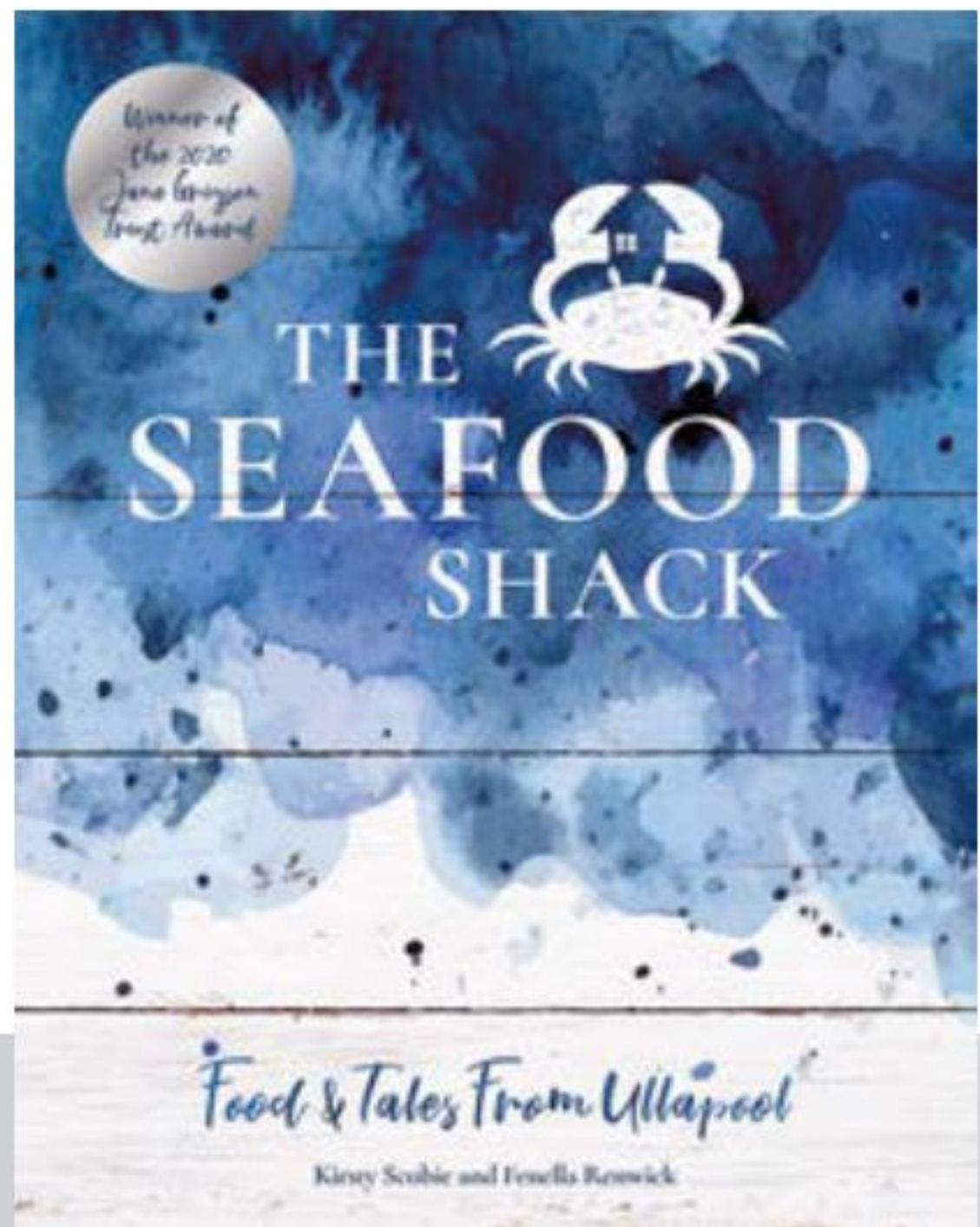
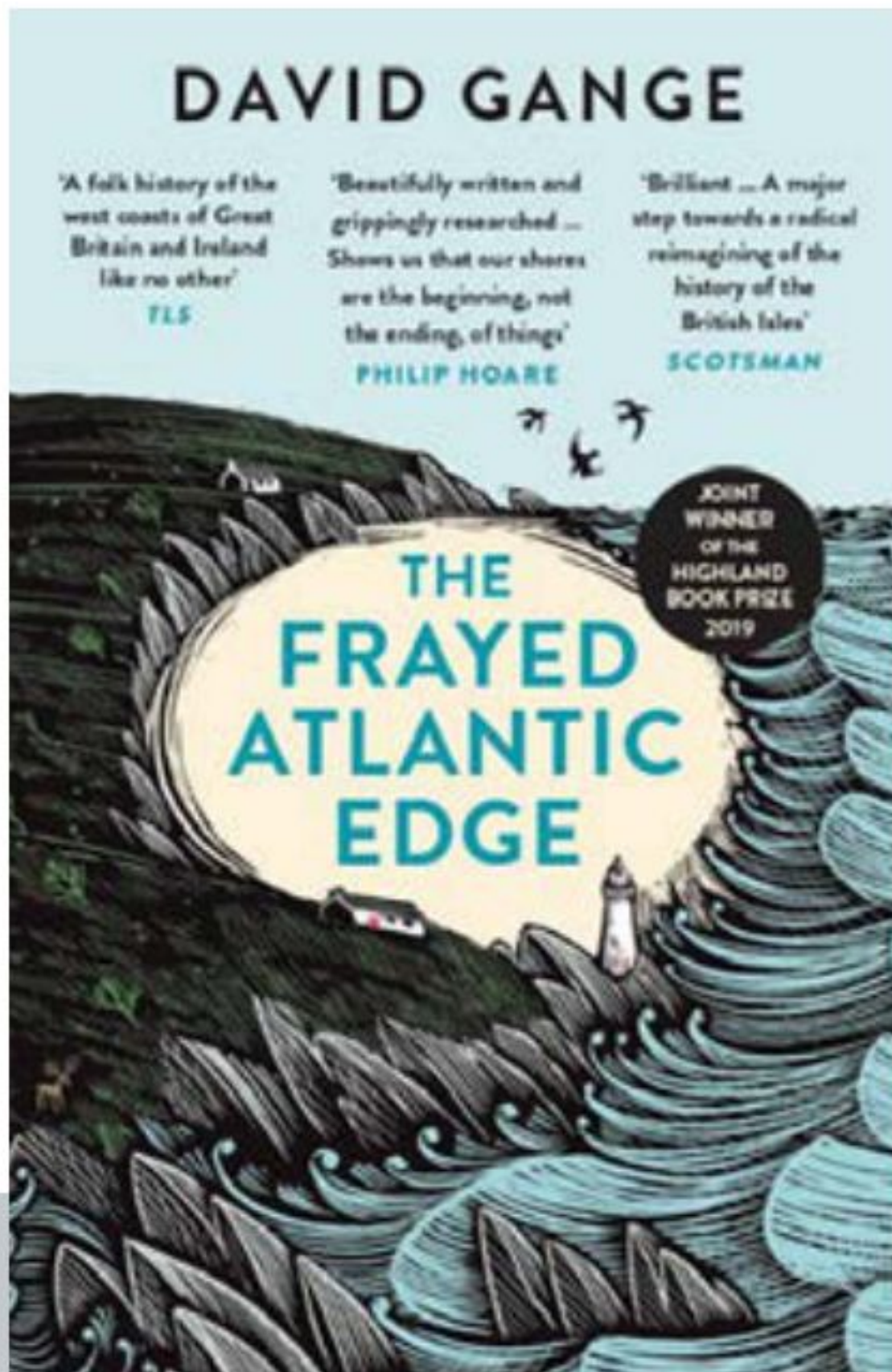
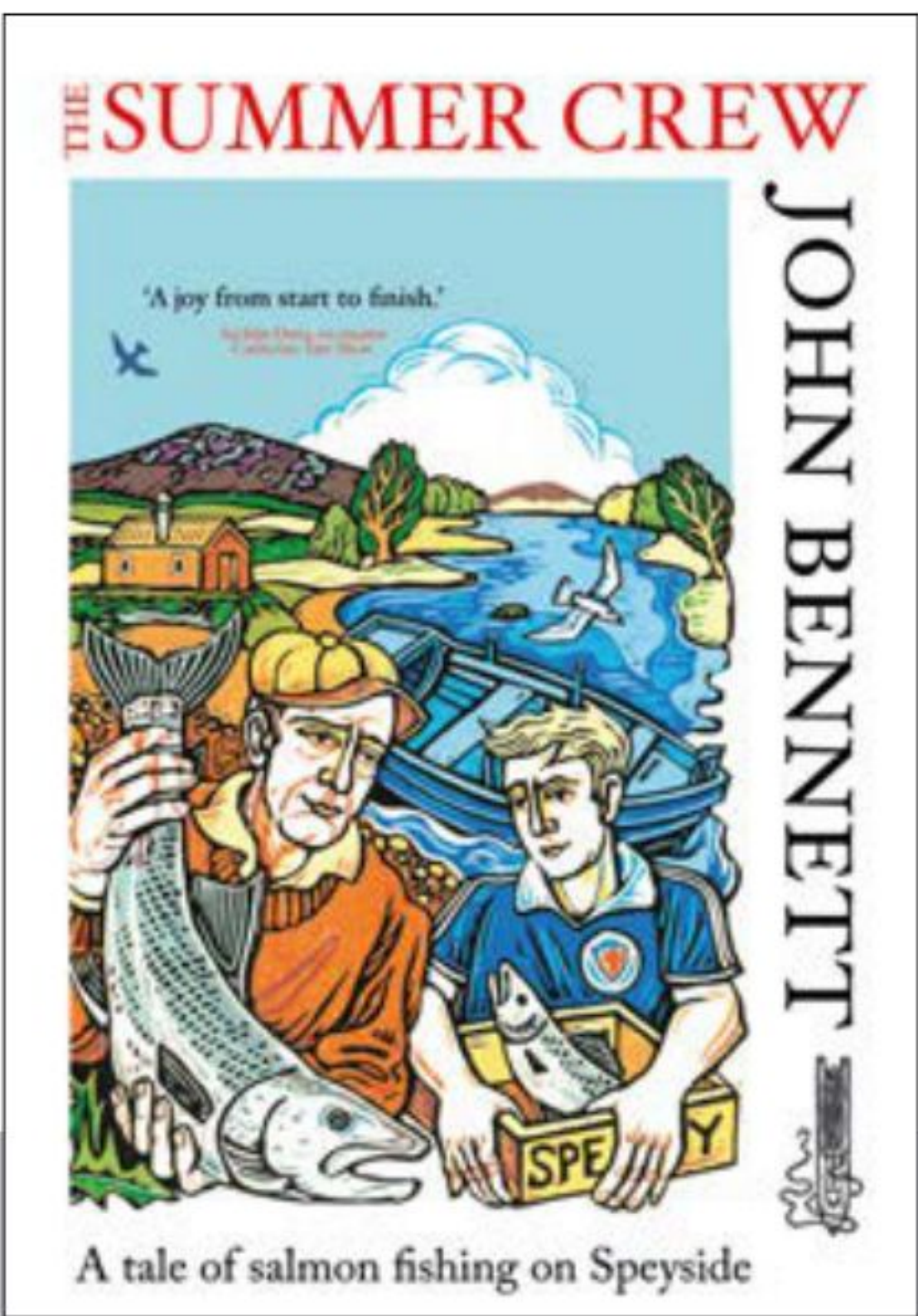
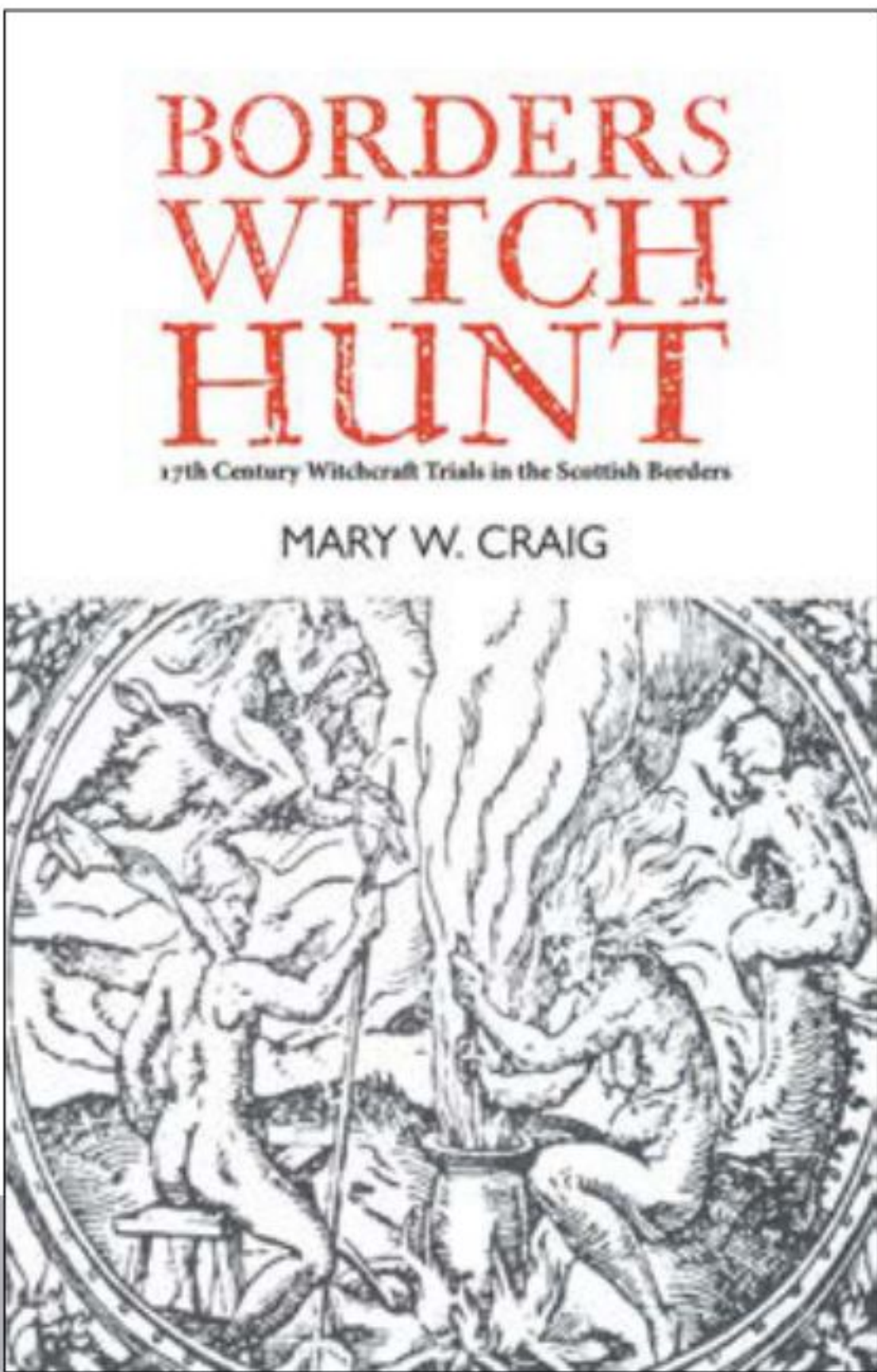
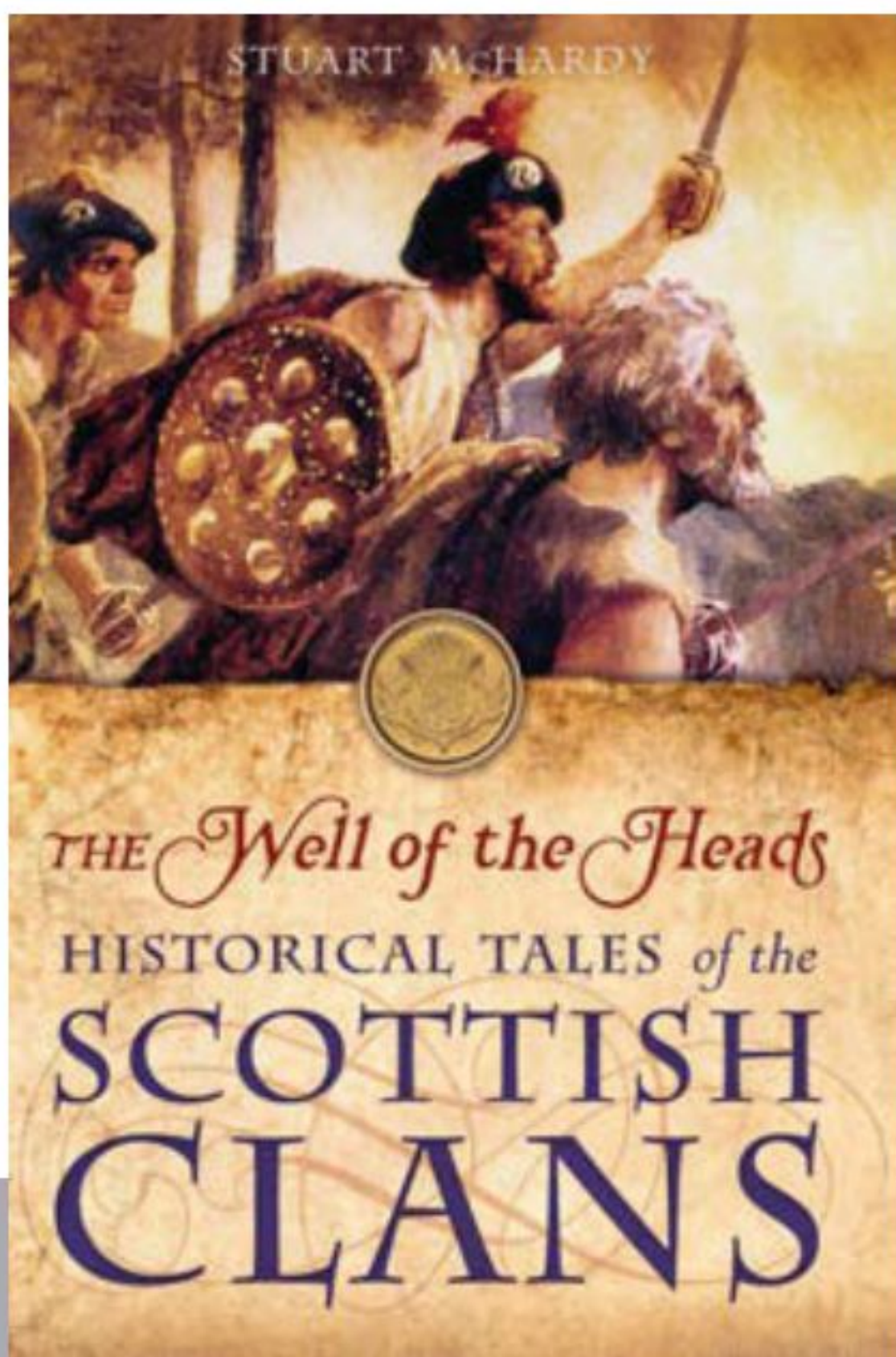
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HISTORY

Borders Witch Hunt: The Story of the 17th Century Witchcraft Trials in the Scottish Borders

BY MARY W CRAIG

As covered in our feature *Heresy, they say?* on page 66, the 17th century saw an increased number of cruel witch trials and executions. In this book, Scottish writer and historian Mary Craig takes up the torch to bring you the nitty gritty details of the trials themselves as well as exploring the role of women, both as accuser and the accused. It's a particularly juicy bite of Scottish social history. (£14.99, Luath Press Ltd) luath.co.uk

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The Summer Crew

BY JOHN BENNETT

This hilarious episodic novel by John Bennett was inspired by a season of salmon fishing he undertook on the River Spey at the end of the 1980s. Though entirely fictional, there's no way his quick-witted insights would have been as entertaining and daring as they are without having had those unique, first-hand experiences. With speech written in Doric dialect (and a glossary for those not well versed), the tales jump to life on the page, like a salmon from the water, you might say. (£9.99, Spey Books) speybooks.co.uk

TRAVEL

The Frayed Atlantic Edge: A Historian's Journey from Shetland to the Channel

BY DAVID GANGE

We've all missed the thrill of a proper adventure recently, but just reading about this one might satiate that particular craving. David Gange spent one year in a kayak, paddling the weather-ravaged coasts of Atlantic Britain and Ireland from north to south. Travelling close to the water and every cove, inlet and island, his book highlights the historic importance of this neglected westerly edge to the whole archipelago. (£9.99, William Collins) harpercollins.co.uk

COOKERY

The Seafood Shack

BY KIRSTY SCOBIE & FENELLA RENWICK

In 2016, Kirsty and Fenella had grown frustrated with the lack of opportunities to eat the incredible array of seafood landed in their northwest Highlands hometown of Ullapool. The story behind their award-winning, crowd-funded project 'The Seafood Shack' – and those of some local fishermen too – are told in this book, beautifully presented alongside more than 80 mouth-watering recipes and tips for cooking white fish, smoked fish and shellfish. (£20, The Kitchen Press) kitchenpress.co.uk



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